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Original



Ramana Maharshi

VO 628 RS 30

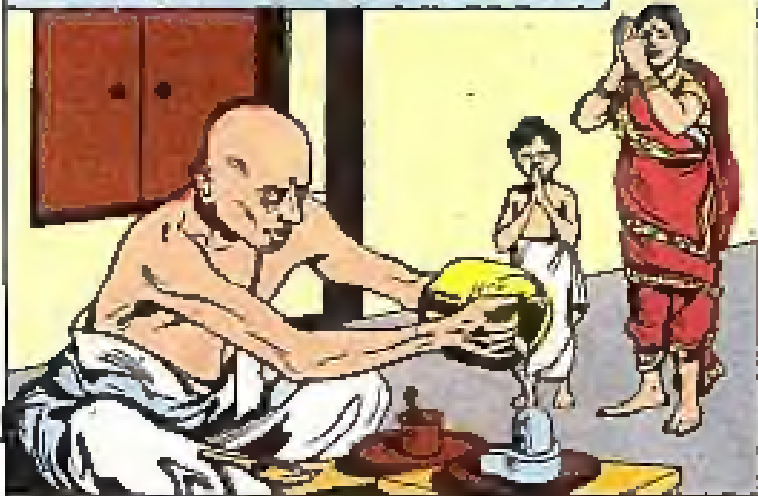


RAMANA MAHARSHI

ON DECEMBER 30, 1873, IN THE VILLAGE OF TIRUCHUZHI, A CHILD WAS BORN TO SUNDARAM IYER AND HIS WIFE, ALAGAMMAL. IT WAS THE DAY OF ARDRA DARSHAN— THE DAY ON WHICH LORD SHIVA APPEARS BEFORE HIS DEVOTEES.



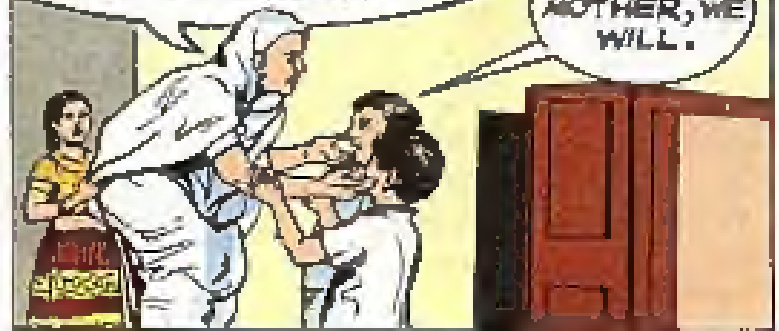
THE CHILD WAS NAMED VENKATARAMAN. HIS PARENTS WERE DEVOUT PEOPLE AND HE GREW UP IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF LOVE AND DEVOTION TO GOD.



BUT SOON, TRAGEDY STRUCK THIS HAPPY FAMILY. SUNDARAM IYER DIED. ALAGAMMAL DECIDED TO SEND VENKATARAMAN AND HIS ELDER BROTHER TO MADURAI TO STAY WITH THEIR UNCLE.

NAGASWAMI, TAKE CARE OF VENKATARAMAN. MY SONS, KEEP OUT OF MISCHIEF. BE OF HELP TO YOUR AUNT.

YES, MOTHER, WE WILL.



AT MADURAI, VENKATARAMAN JOINED THE AMERICAN MISSION HIGH SCHOOL.



VENKATARAMAN WAS A STRONG, HIGH-SPIRITED BOY.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DEAR?

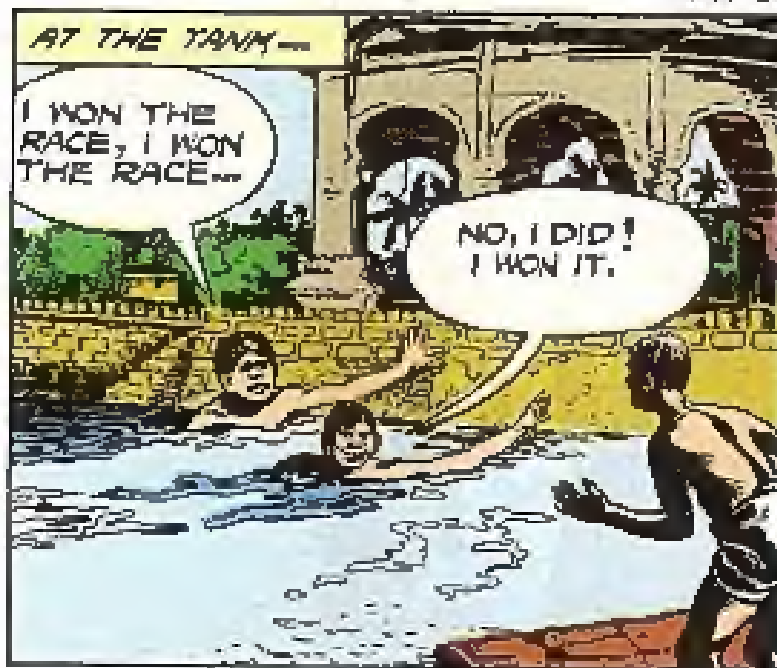
TO SWIM IN THE MARIAMMAN TANK.



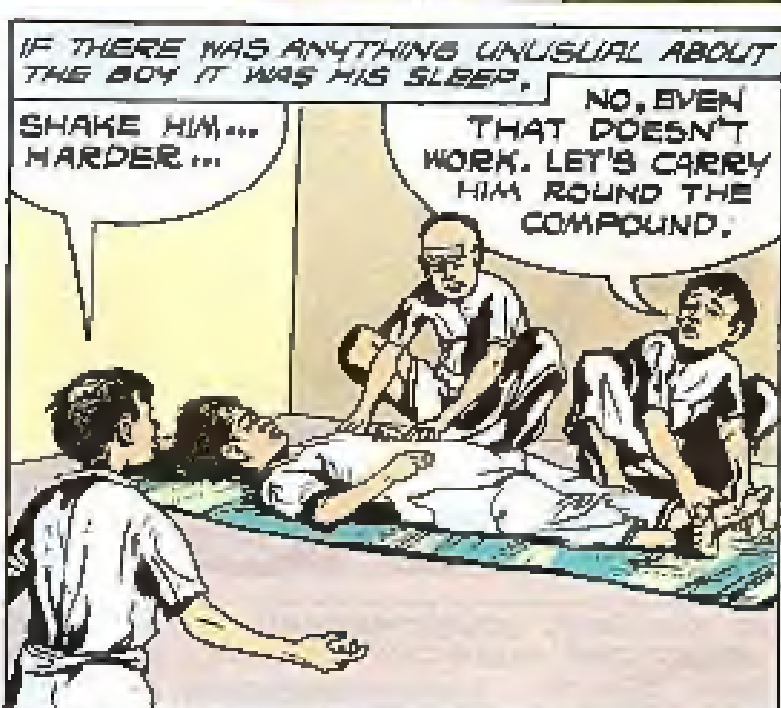
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR LESSONS?

LATER, AUNT, MY FRIENDS ARE WAITING FOR ME...





ANOTHER OF HIS FAVOURITE HAUNTS WAS THE MADURAI MEENAKSHI TEMPLE.



* THE BROTHER OF RAVANA WHO SLEPT FOR MONTHS AT A STRETCH

AND THEN, ONE DAY, A RELATIVE CAME TO VISIT THEM AT MADURAI.

UNCLE, WHERE DO YOU COME FROM?

I COME FROM ARUNACHALA.

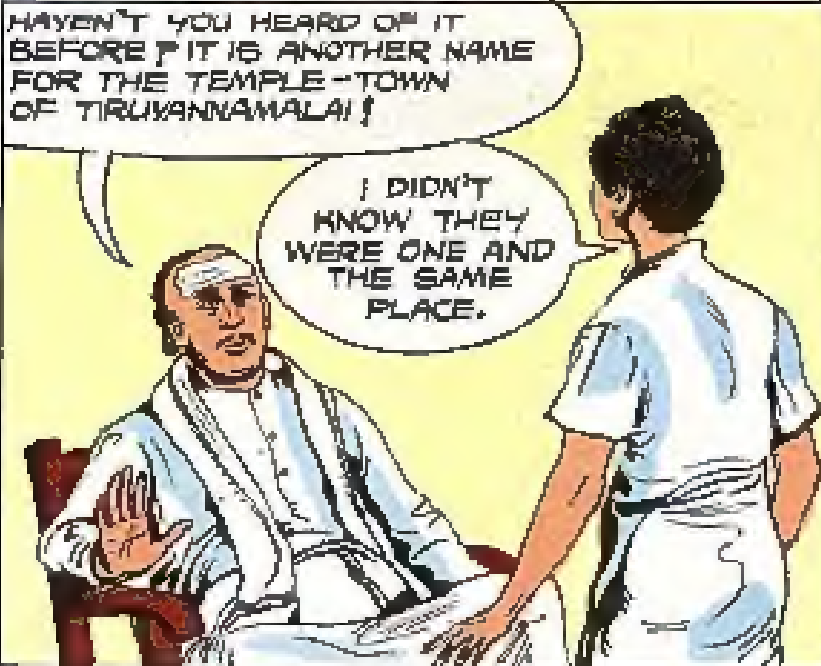


ARUNACHALA!



HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF IT BEFORE? IT IS ANOTHER NAME FOR THE TEMPLE-TOWN OF TIRUVANNAMALAI!

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE ONE AND THE SAME PLACE.

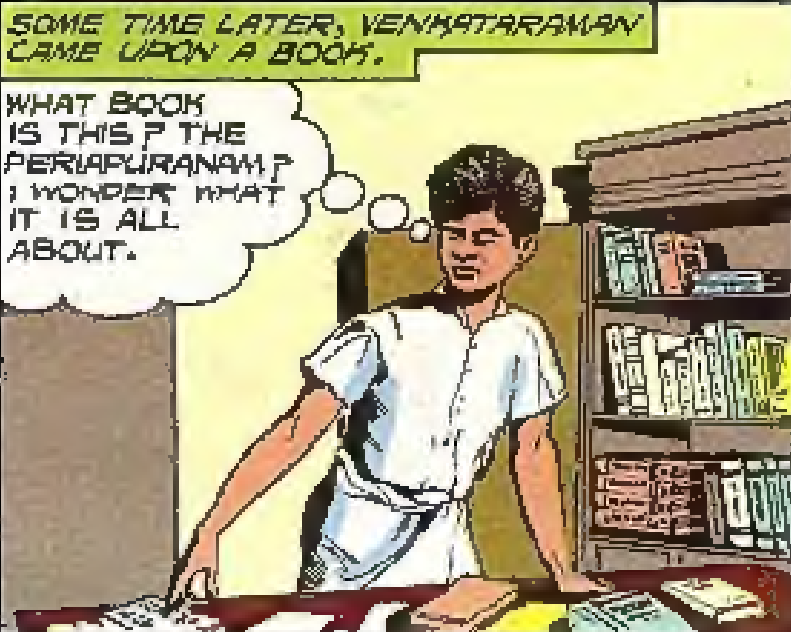


VENKATARAMAN HAD HEARD THIS NAME BEFORE, BUT ONLY NOW DID HE REALISE THAT IT WAS NOT SOME LEGENDARY CITY, BUT AN ACTUAL PLACE ON EARTH! THE NAME TOUCHED A DEEP CHORD IN HIM.



SOME TIME LATER, VENKATARAMAN CAME UPON A BOOK.

WHAT BOOK IS THIS? THE PERIAPURANAM? I WONDER WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.



THE PERIAPURANAM IS ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE SIXTY-THREE GREAT SHIVA SAINTS, THE NAYANMARS. VENKATARAMAN READ THROUGH THE BOOK.

HOW BEAUTIFUL THESE STORIES ARE! THESE SAINTS WERE SO GOOD AND PURE! CAN I BECOME LIKE THEM SOME DAY?

LOOK AT THE BOY! HE HASN'T PUT DOWN THE BOOK FOR HOURS.



THE THOUGHT OF ARUNACHALA AND THE LIVES OF THE SHAIWA SAINTS MADE VENKATARAMAN A DIFFERENT BOY. ONE DAY, IT WAS JULY 16, 1895, HE WAS ALL ALONE AT HOME, WHEN, SUDDENLY—

WHAT IS THIS? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME? I CANNOT BREATHE. MY HANDS HAVE BECOME NUMB...



MY LIMBS ARE BECOMING LIFELESS.

I AM DYING? BUT WHAT... WHAT IS THIS THING—DEATH?



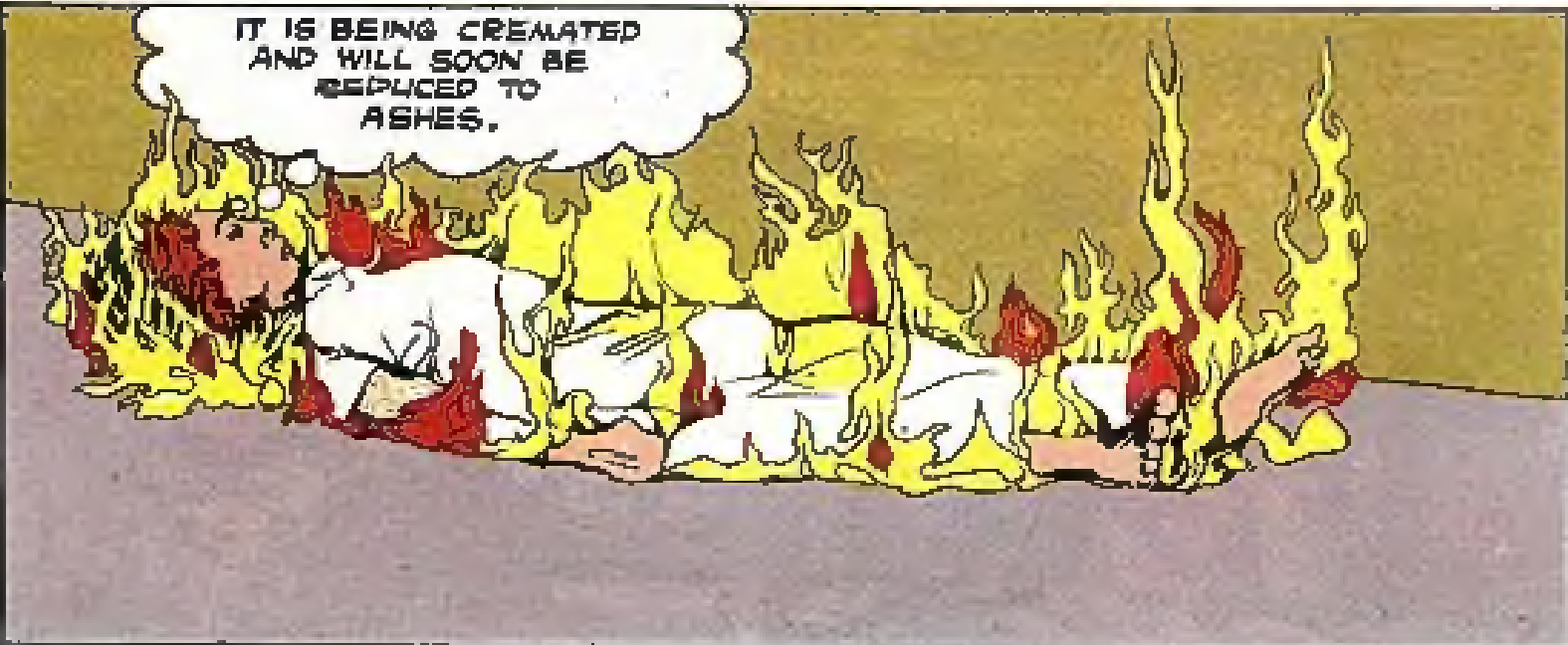
THE ENERGY THAT DRAINED OUT OF HIS LIMBS, CONVERGED ON THIS QUESTION WITH SUCH INTENSITY...

... THAT IN LIFE ITSELF, DEATH CAME TO VENKATARAMAN AS A DIRECT EXPERIENCE.

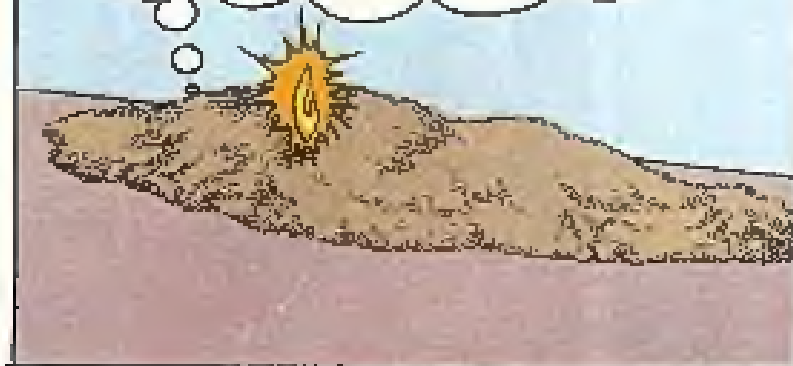
THIS BODY IS DEAD.



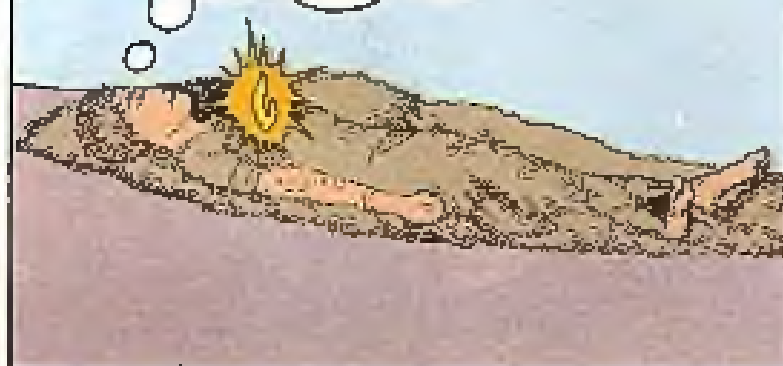
IT IS BEING CREMATED AND WILL SOON BE REDUCED TO ASHES.



BUT, DESPITE THE DEATH OF THE BODY, I CAN STILL FEEL THE FULL FORCE OF MY BEING. I CAN EVEN HEAR A VOICE SPEAKING WITHIN ME. WHO IS THIS INSIDE ME? IT IS THE ^{"I"}—MY TRUE ^{"I"}.



SO THIS "I" EXISTS APART FROM THE BODY. THEREFORE, "I" AM THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS IMMORTAL, DEATHLESS.



THEN THE BLOOD FLOWED THROUGH HIS LIMBS AGAIN AND HE BEGAN TO BREATHE. THE DEATH EXPERIENCE WAS OVER.



BUT DURING THAT INTENSE HALF-HOUR, THE PLAYFUL YOUNG SCHOOLBOY HAD ATTAINED REALISATION OF THE TRUE "I".



NOTHING COULD BE THE SAME AGAIN FOR VENKATARAMAN. EVERYONE NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE IN HIM.

I HAVE MADE YOUR FAVOURITE DISH AND YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT. DON'T YOU WANT IT?



AND VENKATARAMAN QUIETLY ATE THE FOOD ON HIS LEAF.

WON'T YOU HAVE SOME MORE?

NO...

I AM WORRIED. VENKATARAMAN HAS CHANGED. HE RARELY GOES OUT TO PLAY. HE SITS IN A CORNER, LOST IN THOUGHT.

HIS FRIENDS, TOO, NOTICED THE CHANGE.

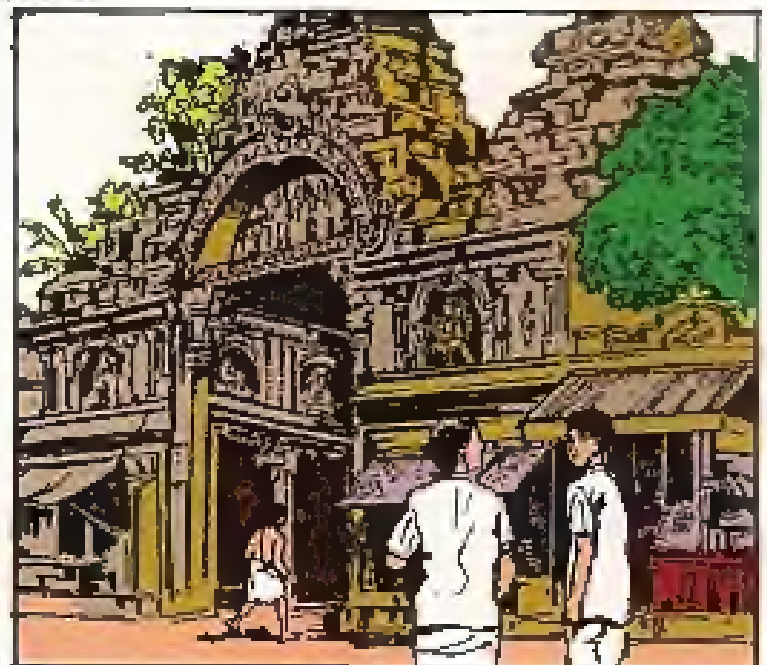
WHY DOES VENKATARAMAN LOOK SO DREAMY THESE DAYS?

I'LL GIVE HIM A GOOD PUSH. LET'S SEE IF THAT WILL PULL HIM OUT OF THE SPELL!

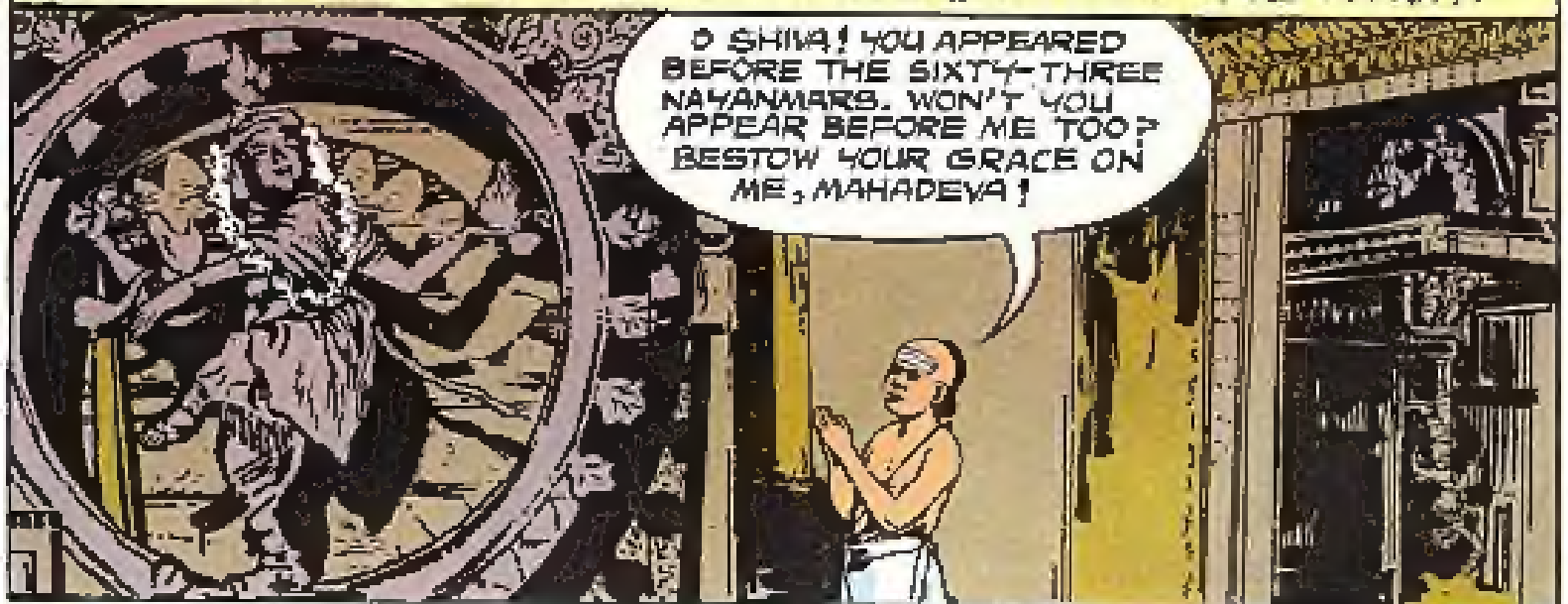


DID YOU SEE THAT? HE JUST WALKED ON AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED!





THE SAME BOY WHO WENT TO THE TEMPLE FOR PLAY, NOW WENT THERE TO PRAY.



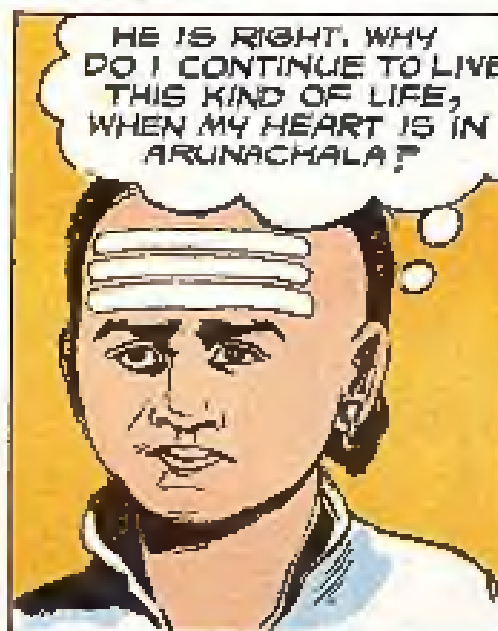
SO ENGBOSSED WAS HE IN HIS INNER LIFE THAT HE OFTEN CAST AWAY HIS BOOKS...



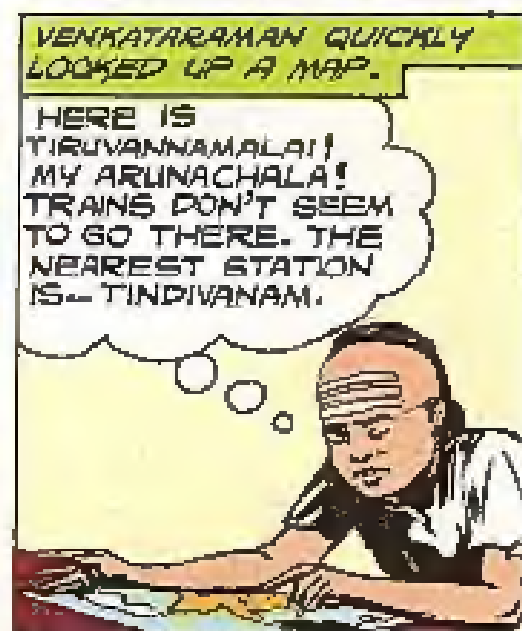
...AND BEGAN INSTEAD TO MEDITATE. THAT WAS WHEN NAGASWAMI, HIS ELDER BROTHER, LOST HIS PATIENCE.



IF YOU WANT TO BEHAVE LIKE A SAGE, WHY DON'T YOU BECOME ONE?

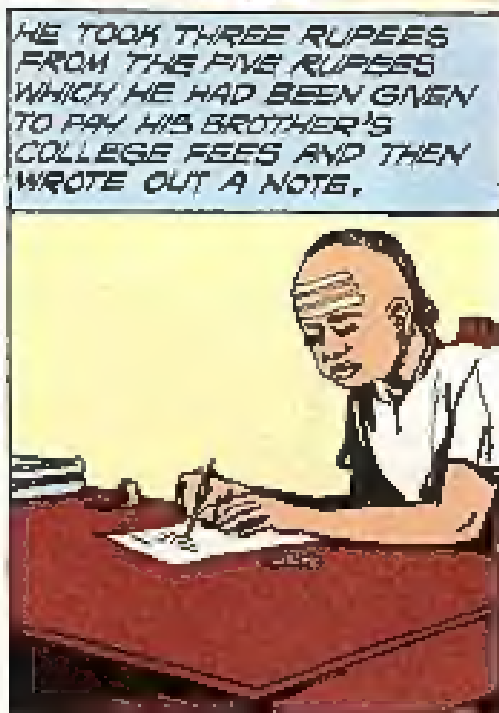


HE IS RIGHT. WHY DO I CONTINUE TO LIVE THIS KIND OF LIFE, WHEN MY HEART IS IN ARUNACHALA?

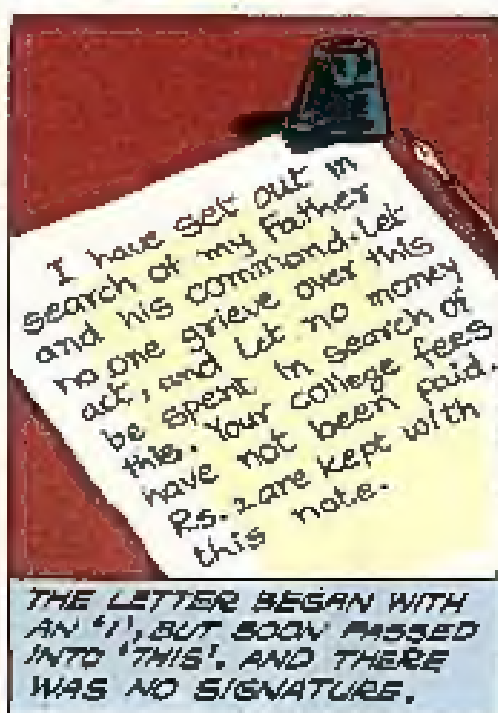


VENKATARAMAN QUICKLY LOOKED UP A MAP.

HERE IS TIRUVANNAMALAI! MY ARUNACHALA! TRAINS DON'T SEEM TO GO THERE. THE NEAREST STATION IS - TINDIVANAM.



HE TOOK THREE RUPEES FROM THE FIVE RUPEES WHICH HE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PAY HIS BROTHER'S COLLEGE FEES AND THEN WROTE OUT A NOTE.



I have set out in search of my Father and his command. Let no one grieve over this act, and let no money be spent in search of this. Your college fees have not been paid. Rs. 2 are kept with this note.

THE LETTER BEGAN WITH AN 'I', BUT SOON PASSED INTO 'THIS', AND THERE WAS NO SIGNATURE.

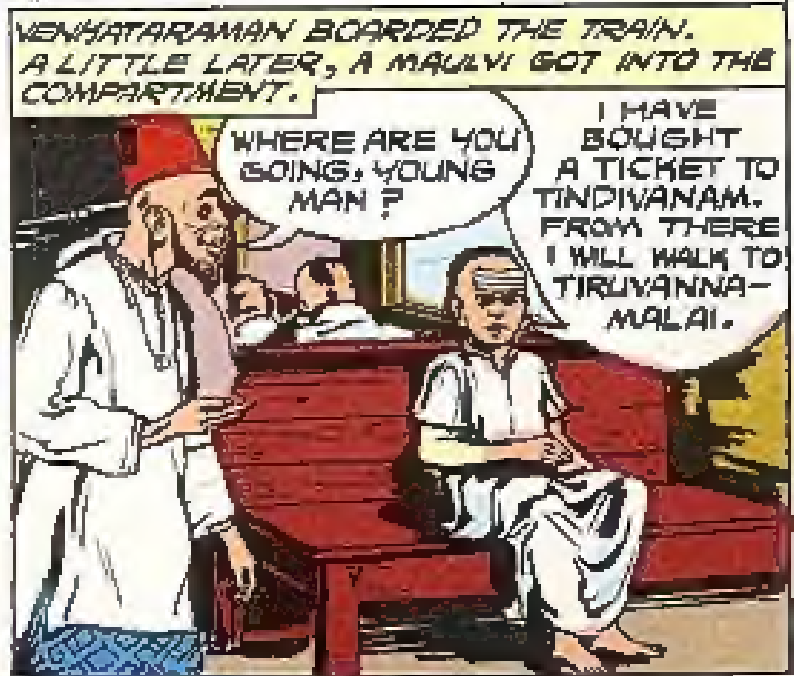


VENKATARAMAN LEFT MADURAI FOR ARUNACHALAM ON AUGUST 23, 1896.



GIVE ME A TICKET TO TINDIVANAM, PLEASE.

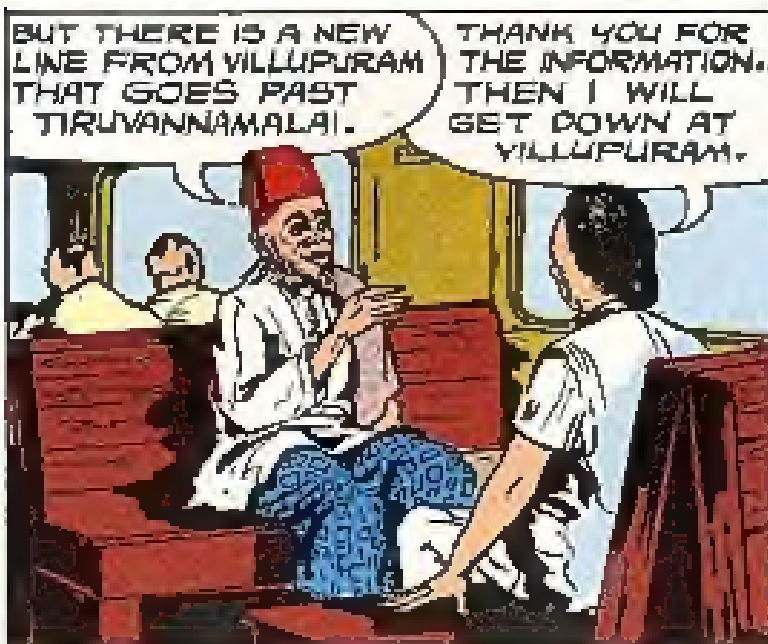
IT WILL COST YOU TWO RUPEES AND THIRTEEN ANNAS*.



VENKATARAMAN BOARDED THE TRAIN. A LITTLE LATER, A MAULVI GOT INTO THE COMPARTMENT.

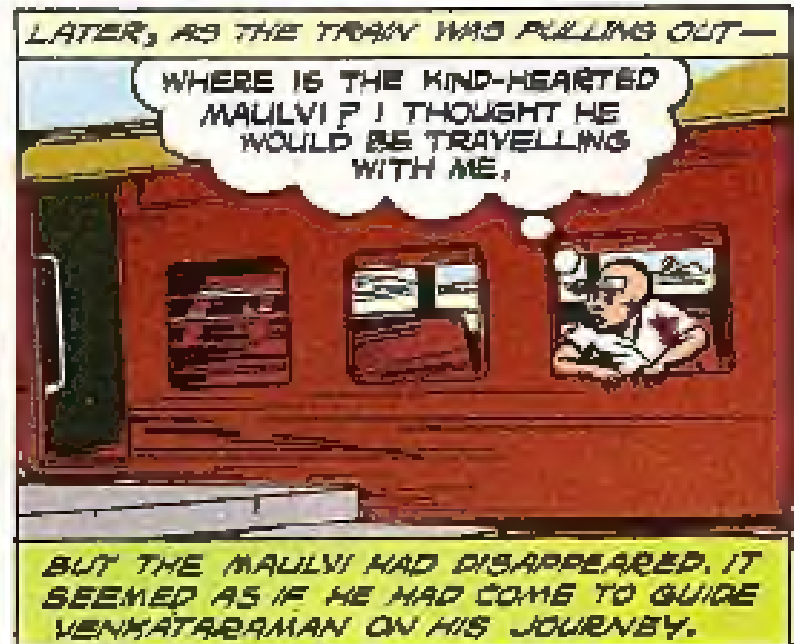
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, YOUNG MAN?

I HAVE BOUGHT A TICKET TO TINDIVANAM. FROM THERE I WILL WALK TO TIRUVANNA-MALAI.



BUT THERE IS A NEW LINE FROM VILLUPURAM THAT GOES PAST TIRUVANNA-MALAI.

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION. THEN I WILL GET DOWN AT VILLUPURAM.



LATER, AS THE TRAIN WAS PULLING OUT—

WHERE IS THE KIND-HEARTED MAULVI? I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE TRAVELLING WITH ME.

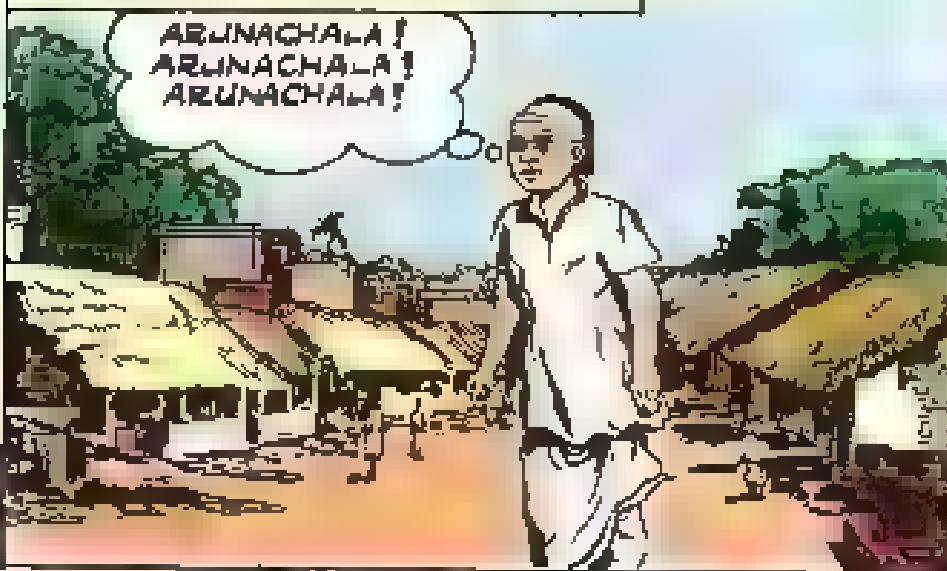
BUT THE MAULVI HAD DISAPPEARED. IT SEEMED AS IF HE HAD COME TO GUIDE VENKATARAMAN ON HIS JOURNEY.



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, VENKATARAMAN GOT OFF AT VILLUPURAM. BUT HE HAD NO MONEY LEFT. SO HE BEGAN TO WALK.

* AN ANNA IS EQUAL TO SIX PAISE.

BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE VILLAGE OF KILUR, HE WAS EXHAUSTED.

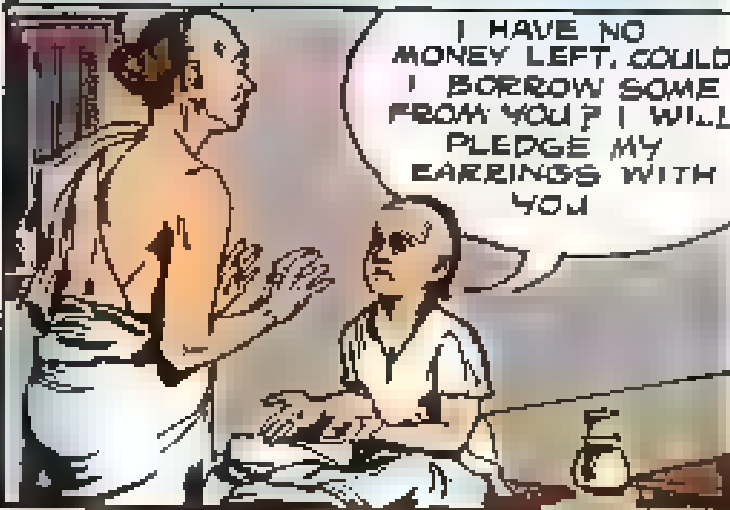


ARUNACHALA!
ARUNACHALA!
ARUNACHALA!

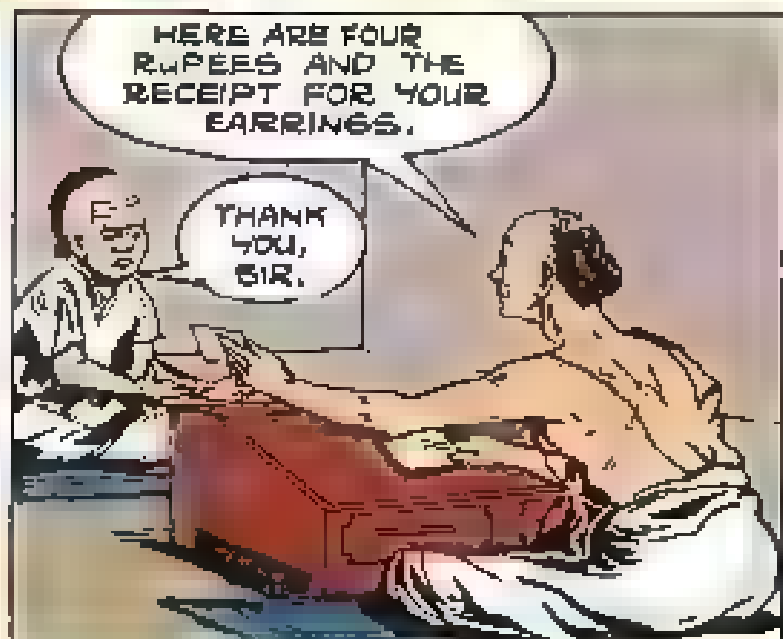
WEAK WITH HUNGER, HE
FAINTED AT THE DOOR
OF A HOUSE.



A KIND-HEARTED MAN SAW VENMATARAMAN
AND GAVE HIM A GOOD MEAL. WHEN
VENMATARAMAN HAD EATEN AND FELT
REFRESHED, HE TOLD HIS STORY.



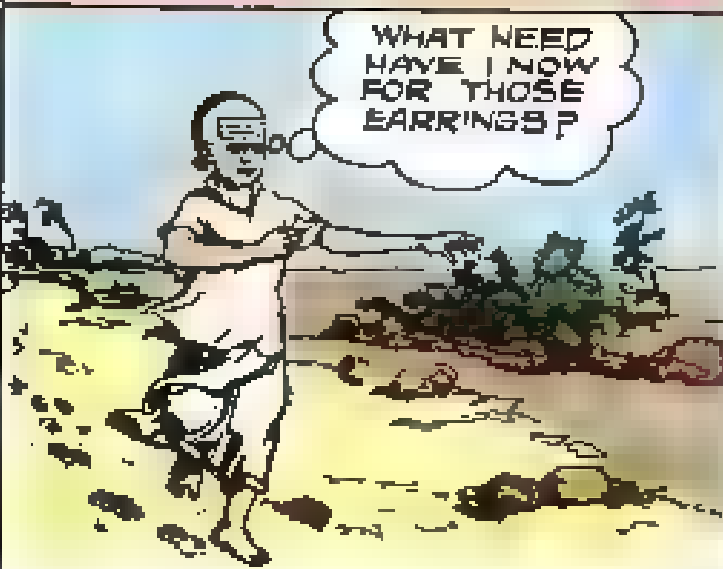
I HAVE NO
MONEY LEFT. COULD
I BORROW SOME
FROM YOU? I WILL
PLEDGE MY
EARRINGS WITH
YOU



HERE ARE FOUR
RUPEES AND THE
RECEIPT FOR YOUR
EARRINGS.

THANK
YOU,
SIR.

EVEN BEFORE HE REACHED KILUR STATION,
VENMATARAMAN TORN UP THE RECEIPT.

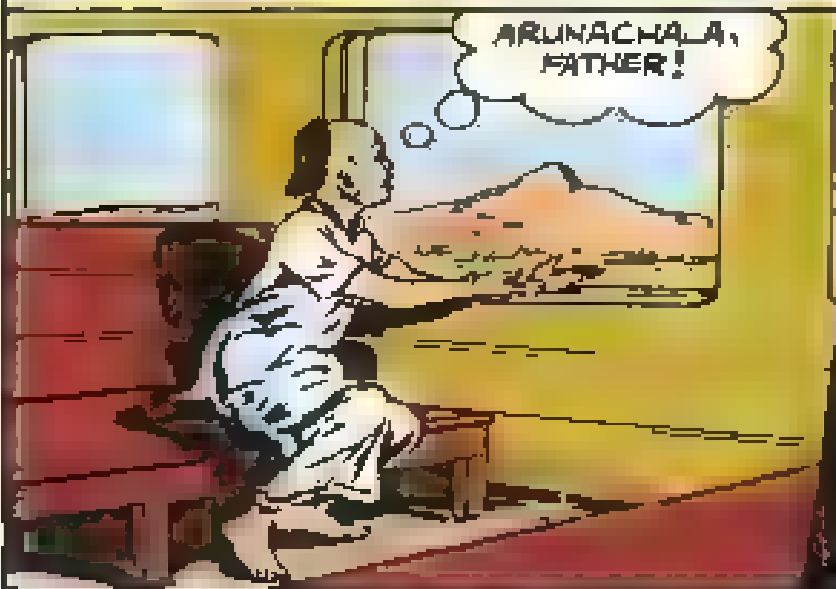


WHAT NEED
HAVE I NOW
FOR THOSE
EARRINGS?

HE CAUGHT THE TRAIN FOR TIRUVANNAMALAI.



THE NEXT DAY, SEPTEMBER 1, THE GREAT HILL OF ARUNACHALA APPEARED IN THE DISTANCE.



திருவள்ளூர்
TIRUVANNAMALAI



THERE WAS NOT A SOUL IN THE TEMPLE. THE MUDDAY WORSHIP WAS OVER AND THE DOORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CLOSED, BUT THEY WERE WIDE OPEN. AND THUS THE LORD...



...HE COVERED HIS SON HOME

MUCH LATER, VENKATIRAMAN CAME OUT OF THE TEMPLE AT THE AYYANKULAM TANK. HE HAD HIS HEAD SHAVED AND CAST AWAY HIS BELT AND BINGA



I NEED ONLY THIS KOURINAM, NOTHING ELSE.

* LOIN-CLOTH

IN THE HALL OF A THOUSAND PILLARS,
HE SAT DOWN TO MEDITATE.



BUT MISCHIEVOUS BOYS BEGAN TO TROUBLE
HIM BY THROWING STONES AT HIM.



SO, VENKATARAMAN CHOSE
AN ISOLATED PLACE WHERE HE
COULD BE ALONE — THE PATALA
LINGAM — A DARK,
UNDERGROUND CELLAR.



DAYS PASSED. THE
YOUNG MAN, LOST IN
MEDITATION, WAS
CONSCIOUS OF NOTHING..



...NOT EVEN OF THE VERMIN
THAT NIBBLED AWAY AT HIS
MOTIONLESS LEGS..



...TILL, ONE DAY, A HOLY MAN NAMED BESHADRI SWAMI AND SOME PRIESTS WHO HAPPENED
TO COME THERE FOUND HIM.

OH, GOD! LOOK AT HIS
THIGHS THEY HAVE
BEEN EATEN AWAY.
IS HE ALIVE?

HE IS ALIVE. LET'S CARRY
HIM OUT. THESE WOUNDS
MUST BE ATTENDED
TO AT ONCE!



THEY NURSED HIM BACK TO HEALTH. WHEN HE WAS QUITE WELL AGAIN THE TEMPLE PRIESTS BEGAN TO QUESTION HIM.

MY BOY, YOU ARE TOO YOUNG TO GO THROUGH SO MUCH. TELL US YOUR NAME, WE WILL SEND YOU HOME.

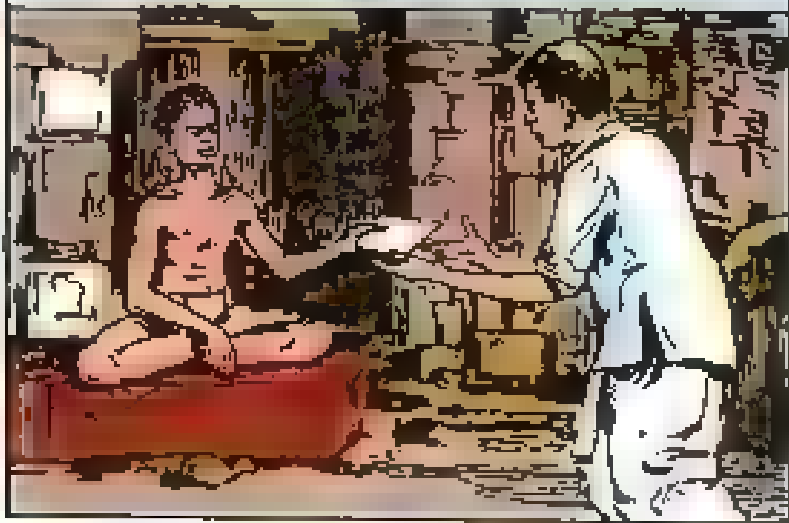


TELL US WHERE YOU COME FROM, YOUNG SWAMI, WON'T YOU SPEAK?

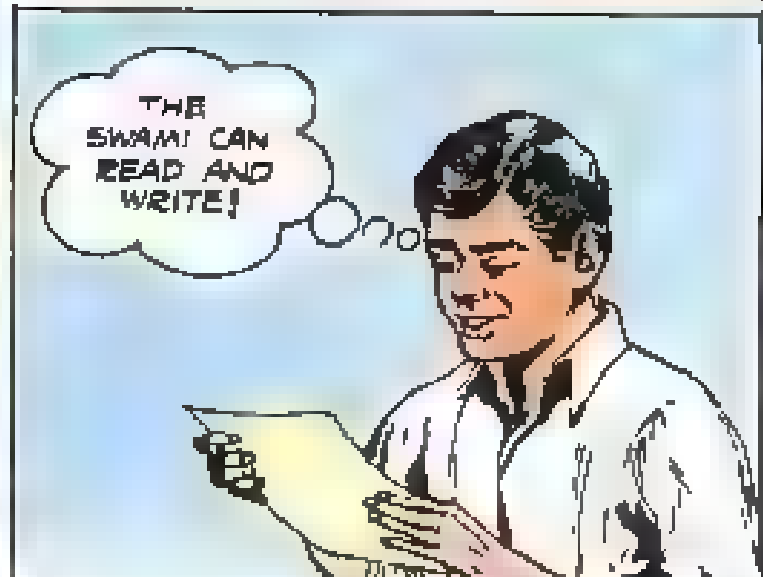


BUT THE YOUNG SWAMI MAINTAINED AN ABSOLUTE SILENCE.

ONE VISITOR PERSISTED IN QUESTIONING THE SWAMI ABOUT HIS IDENTITY. AT LAST, VENMATARAMAN GAVE HIM THE INFORMATION HE WANTED ON A PIECE OF PAPER.



THE SWAMI CAN READ AND WRITE!



THE NEWS THAT THE SWAMI'S NAME WAS VENMATARAMAN AND THAT HE CAME FROM TIRUCHUZZH SPREAD, TILL IT REACHED THE EARS OF HIS MOTHER. ALASAMMAL CAME TO TIRUYANNAMALAI.

MY SON, HOW GLAD I AM TO HAVE FOUND YOU AT LAST!



PLEASE COME BACK HOME WITH ME, SON.



BUT A SWAMI IS A MAN OF GOD. HE HAS NO OTHER FATHER, NOR MOTHER, NEITHER HAS HE A HOME. RAMANA ONLY LOOKED AT HER IN SILENCE. SO ALASAMMAL HAD TO RETURN HOME DISAPPOINTED.



AT THIS TIME, A GREAT MAN BY THE NAME OF MUNI, CAME TO SEE THE SWAMI.

HE HAD HEARD THAT THE SWAMI HAD ATTAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE AND HE WANTED TO SEE HIM. HE WENT TO THE SWAMI'S PLACE AND FOUND HIM SITTING UNDER A TREE. HE WENT UP TO HIM AND SAID, 'I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE ATTAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE. CAN YOU TEACH ME?' THE SWAMI LOOKED AT HIM AND SAID, 'I CAN TEACH YOU, BUT FIRST YOU MUST LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR MIND AND SENSES. ONLY THEN WILL I BE ABLE TO TEACH YOU.' THE SWAMI THEN GAVE HIM SOME ADVICE AND HE LEFT.

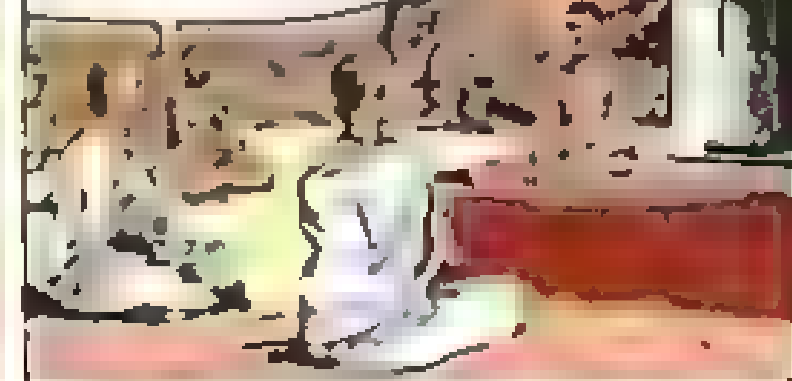


FROM NOW ON, HE SHOULD BE CALLED BHASAVAN SON RAMANA MAHARISHI



THE SWAMI THEN GAVE HIM SOME ADVICE AND HE LEFT.

HE IS A GREAT MAN, ONE WHO HAS ATTAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE



HE HAD HEARD THAT THE SWAMI HAD ATTAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE AND HE WANTED TO SEE HIM. HE WENT TO THE SWAMI'S PLACE AND FOUND HIM SITTING UNDER A TREE. HE WENT UP TO HIM AND SAID, 'I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU HAVE ATTAINED TRUE KNOWLEDGE. CAN YOU TEACH ME?' THE SWAMI LOOKED AT HIM AND SAID, 'I CAN TEACH YOU, BUT FIRST YOU MUST LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR MIND AND SENSES. ONLY THEN WILL I BE ABLE TO TEACH YOU.' THE SWAMI THEN GAVE HIM SOME ADVICE AND HE LEFT.

A SMALL GROUP OF DEVOTEES, HEADED BY PALANISWAMI, MADE THE LITTLE CAVE THEIR HOME.

BHAGAVAN, HERE IS THE RICE WE GOT AS ALMS IN THE TOWN.

IT'S NOT ENOUGH FOR US ALL. ADD A LOT OF WATER AND MAKE A THIN GRUEL.

ADD SOME GINGER AND LEMON LEAVES. WE'LL DRINK IT IN THE EVENING WHEN IT BECOMES COOL.

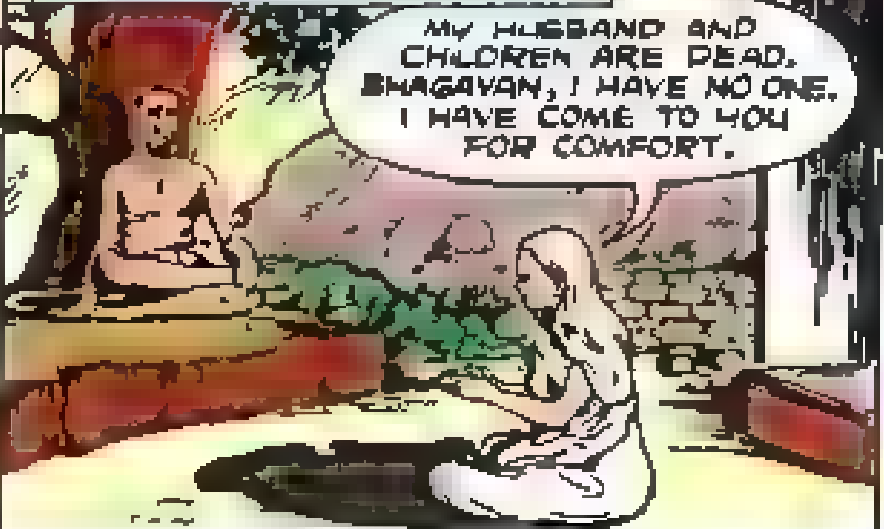


AND IN THE EVENING, THE COOL GRUEL WOULD TASTE DELICIOUS, AND ALL WERE SATISFIED WITH THE SIMPLE MEAL.



ONE OF THE MAHARSHI'S EARLY DEVOTEES WAS ECHAMMAL.

MY HUSBAND AND CHILDREN ARE DEAD. BHAGAVAN, I HAVE NO ONE. I HAVE COME TO YOU FOR COMFORT.



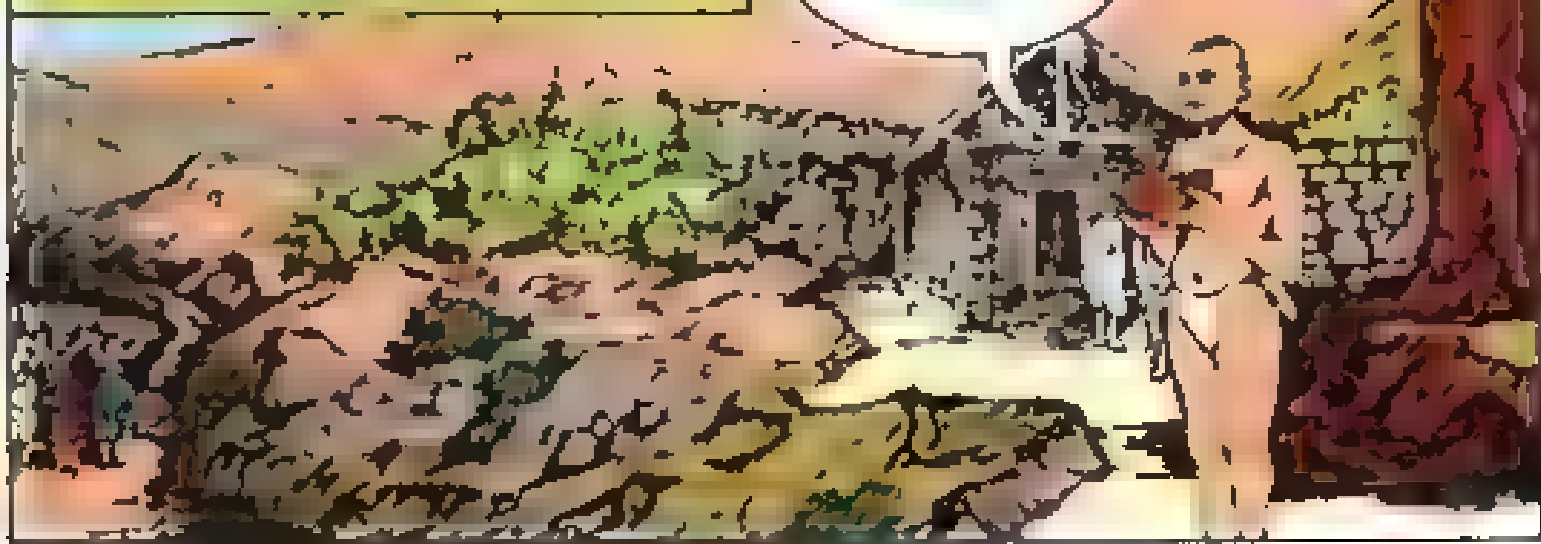
THE MAHARSHI DID NOT SPEAK. ECHAMMAL WAITED, THEN SUDDENLY—

WHAT IS THIS? MY SORROWS ARE MELTING AWAY. I FEEL A DEEP PEACE JUST BY SITTING HERE. HE DOES NOT SPEAK, BUT HIS SILENCE GIVES MORE SOLACE THAN WORDS.



THE MANARAY'S HEART EMBRACED
ONE AND ALL, EVEN THE UNTOUCHABLES.
HE HATED ENA EVEN MORE FOR THEM

HERE COME THE
UNTOUCHABLE
WOMEN.



OH BHAGWAN,
WE WORKED ALL
DAY. THE SUN
HAS BURNED US
TO THE BONE.
PLEASE THROW
WATER ON OUR
BACKS.



AM I NOW
WONDERFUL
THAT
PEELO?



HE EVEN SHARED HIS
GRUEL WITH THEM

BUT THERE ARE TEARS
IN BHAGWAN'S EYES.



THIS IS
LIKE NECTAR,
BHAGWAN.

THE MAHARSHI'S MOST FAGER VISITORS WERE LITTLE CHILDREN.

BHAGAVAN, YOU PROMISED TO PLAY MARBLES WITH ME!

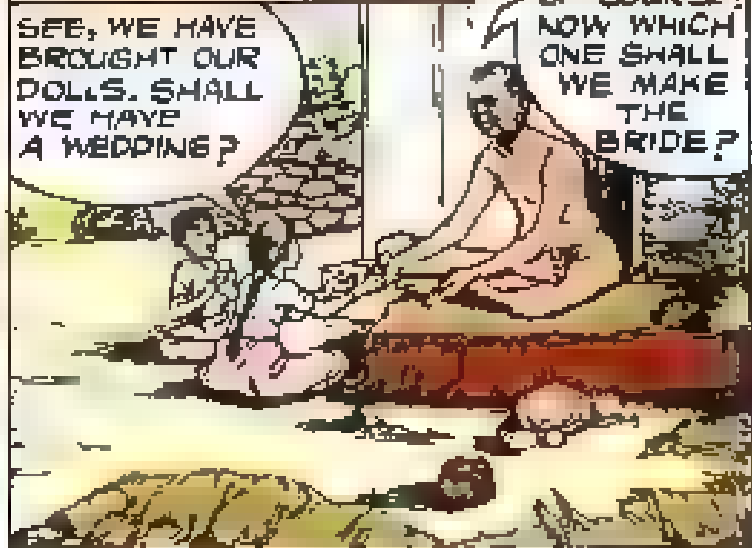
DIG THE HOLE, I AM COMING IN A MINUTE.



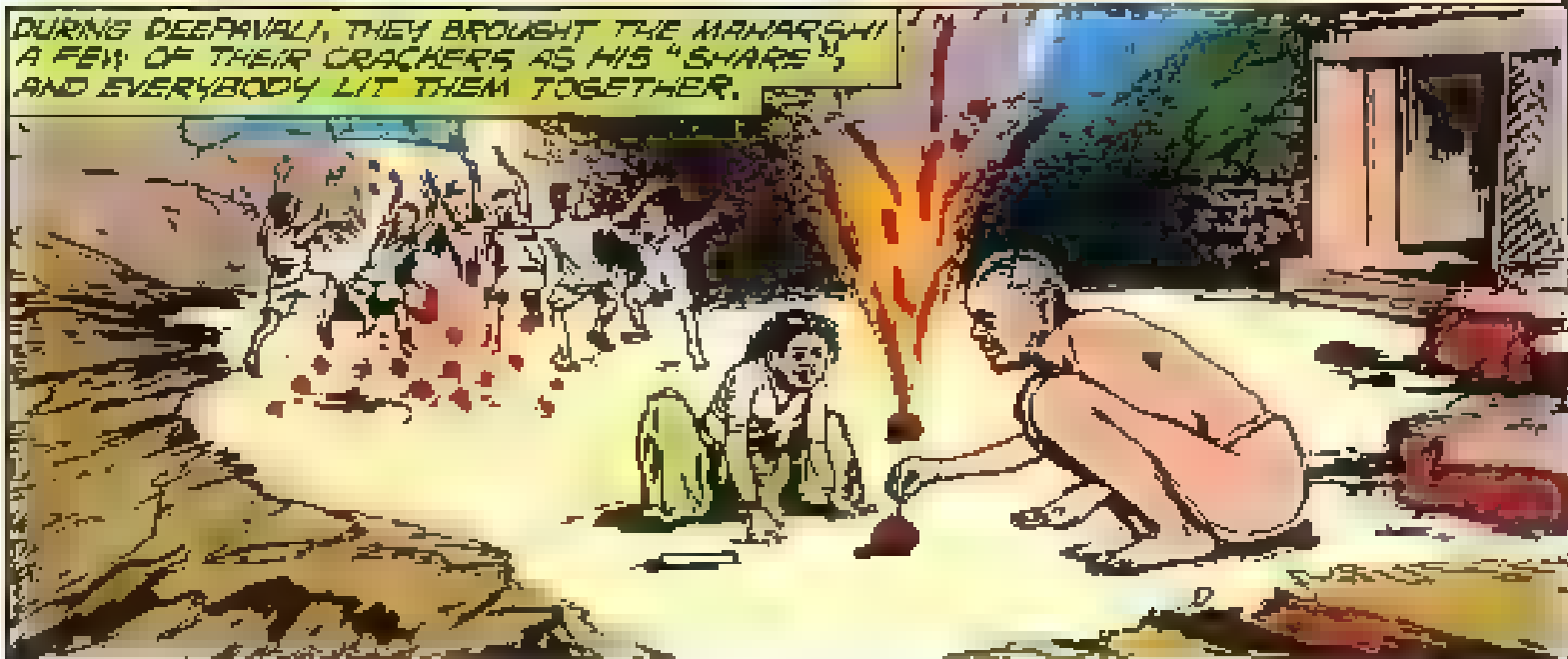
THE LITTLE ONES CLIMBED UP THE STEEP HILL TO VIRUPAKSHA CAVE, JUST TO BE WITH HIM.

SEE, WE HAVE BROUGHT OUR DOLLS. SHALL WE HAVE A WEDDING?

OF COURSE! NOW WHICH ONE SHALL WE MAKE THE BRIDE?



DURING DEEPAVALI, THEY BROUGHT THE MAHARSHI A FEW OF THEIR CRACKERS AS HIS "SHARE", AND EVERYBODY LIT THEM TOGETHER.



AND IN THE MAHARSHI'S QUIET MOMENTS, WHEN HE REMAINED SILENT THEY TOO SAT QUIETLY AT HIS FEET.



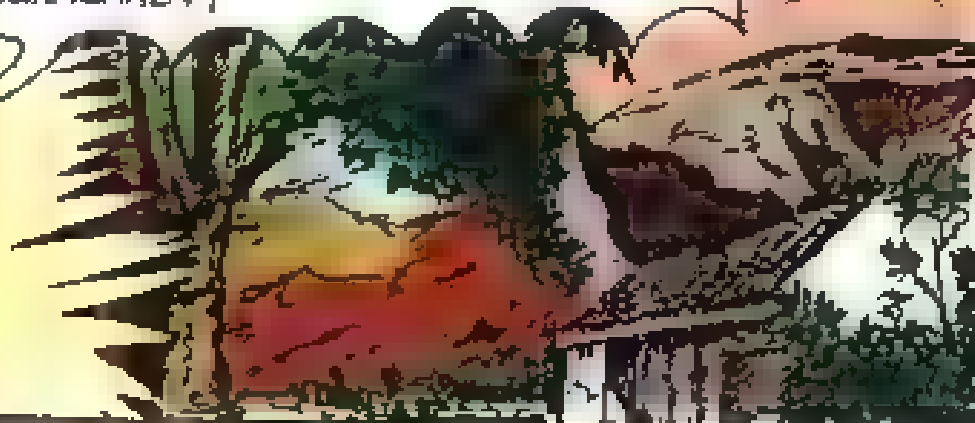
MANY SADHUS TOO WOULD COME AND SIT IN THE CAVE.

BHAGAVAN, WON'T YOU COMPOSE A SONG? WE WILL SING IT WHEN WE GO TO THE TOWN TO SEEK ALMS.



AT THEIR REQUEST, THE MAHARSHI COMPOSED HIS BEAUTIFUL HYMN TO ARUNACHALA — THE AKSHARA-MANA-MALAI*.

BEFORE YOUR FIRE BURNS ME TO ASHES, RAIN DOWN ON ME YOUR SHOWER OF GRACE, O ARUNACHALA!

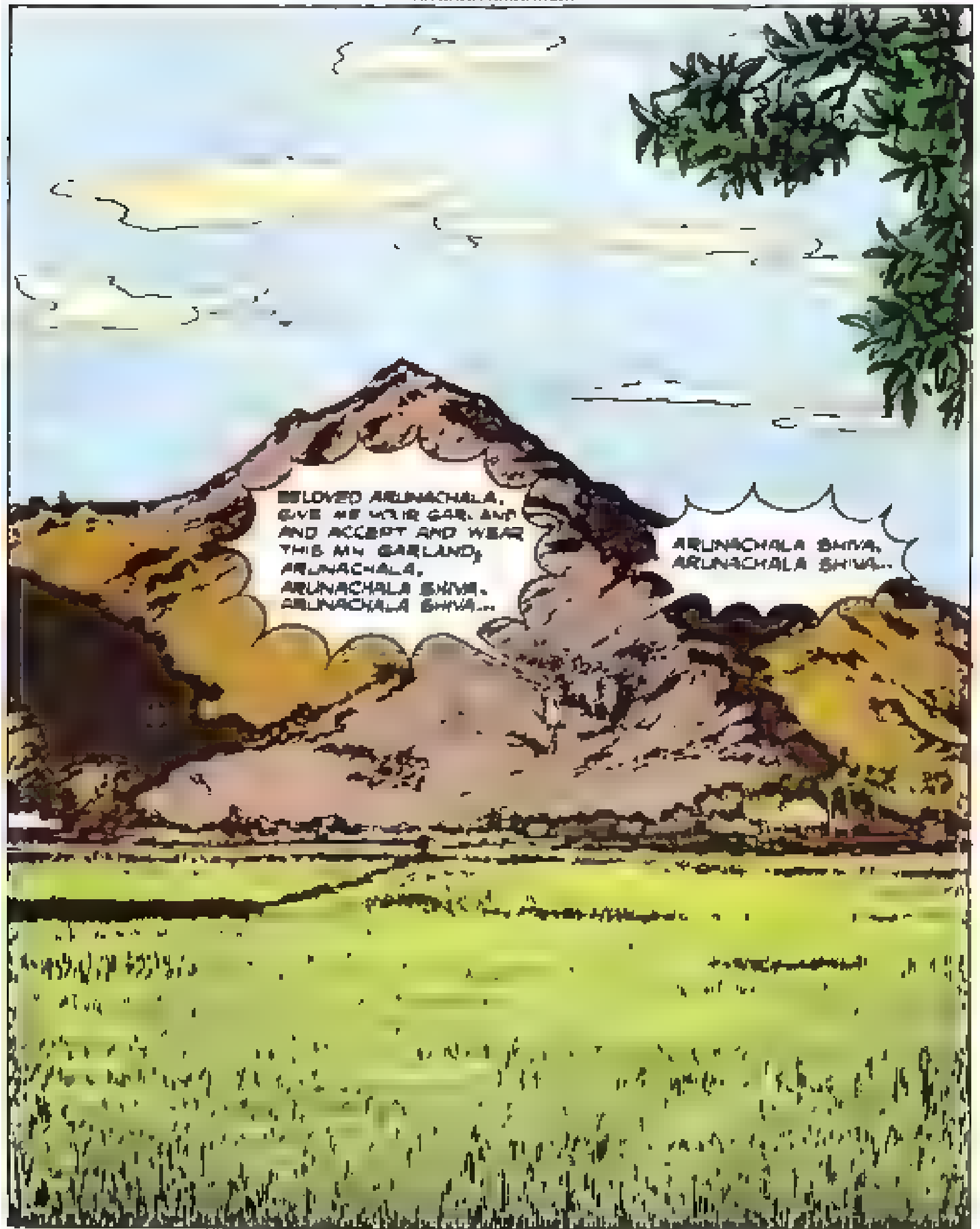


THE HYMN WAS COMPOSED DURING THE WALK ROUND THE HILL.

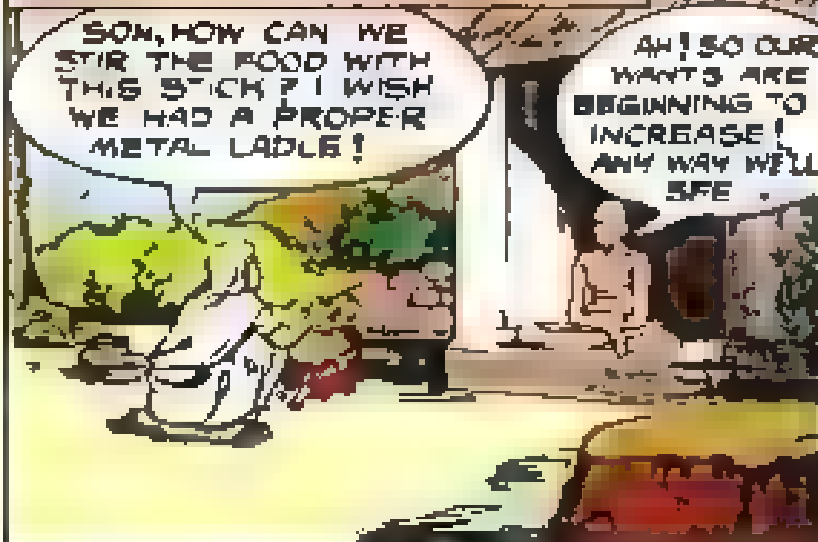
HOW HAVE YOU ATTAINED SUCH GREATNESS, ARUNACHALA? IS IT BY UNION WITH THE POOR AND THE HUMBLE?



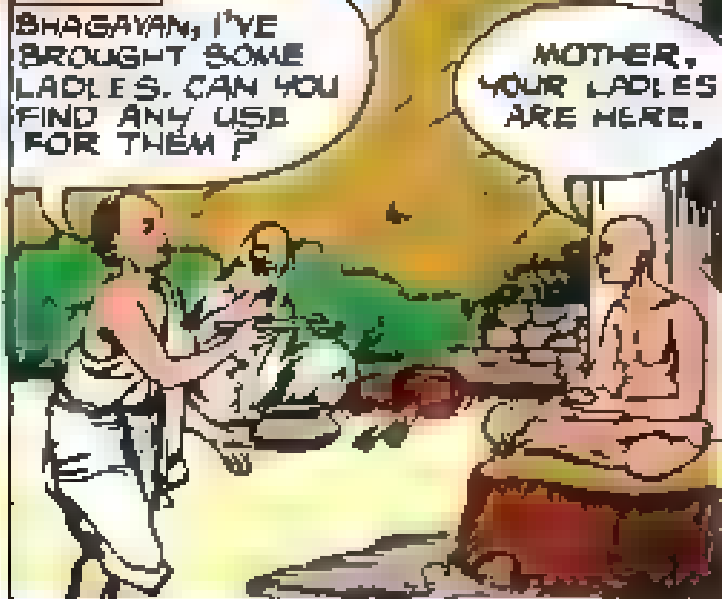
* THE MARITAL GARLAND OF WORDS OR LETTERS



A FEW YEARS LATER, ALAGAMMAL CAME TO LIVE WITH HER SON. WITH HER COOKING, THE CAVE BECAME MORE OF A HOME, FOR SHE BEGAN TO COOK FOR EVERYONE.



A FEW DAYS LATER, A DEVOTEE CAME THERE.



ONE DAY—



HARDLY HAD THE MAHARSHI EXPRESSED THE WISH THEN—



LADLES, FRUITS, VESSELS—ALL BEGAN TO FLOW IN THIS LAYING DOWN THE BEGINNINGS OF AN ASHRAM.



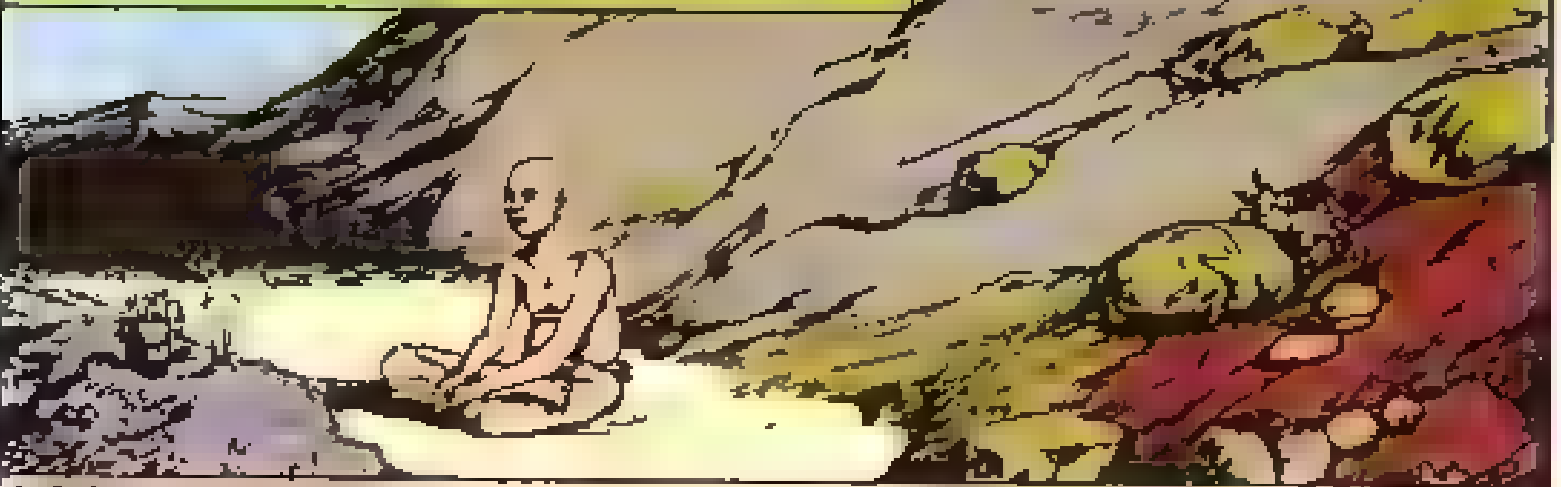
SOON, THE NEED FOR A BIGGER ASHRAM WAS FELT. IT WAS BUILT A LITTLE ABOVE VIRUPAKSHI CAVE AND WAS NAMED SHANDASHRAM.



SOME YEARS LATER, ALAKAMMAL FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. AS DEATH APPROACHED, THE MAHARSHI PLACED HIS HANDS ON HER HEAD AND CHEST AND SAID HER MUNITI*



SHE WAS BURIED AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL AND A LINGAM WAS PLACED OVER HER SAMADHI.



AND, ONE DAY, THE MAHARSHI LEFT SHANDASHRAM AND CAME TO LIVE BY THIS SHRINE.

AROUND ALAKAMMAL'S SHRINE WAS BUILT THE FAMOUS SRI RAMANASHRAMAM OF TIRUVANNAKALY.



* FREEDOM FROM FURTHER BIRTH

THE ASHRAM GREW AND BEGAN TO FEED AND ACCOMMODATE DEVOTEES. ONE NIGHT, THIEVES RAIDED IT.



THE THIEVES MADE A THOROUGH SEARCH, BUT —



THE ANGRY THIEVES BEAT THE HANARSHI AND THE ASHRAM INMATES AND WENT AWAY.

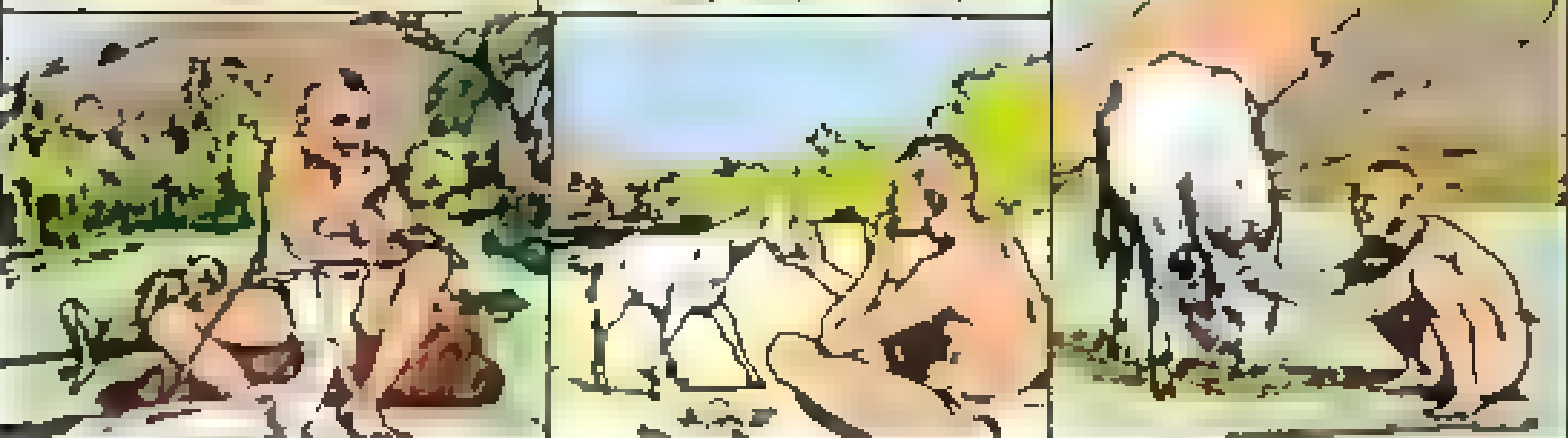


ANIMALS, TOO, WERE ATTRACTED TO THE MAHARSHI. THEY SAW IN HIM, A TRUSTED FRIEND.



ONE DAY, WHEN SOME DEVOTEES LIVED IN TO THE KITCHEN GARDEN, THEY WERE SURPRISED TO SEE THE MAHARSHI FEEDING GROUNDS TO A GOAT, A RABBIT, AND A HEN, AND EATING SOME HIMSELF - SAW THAT ANIMALS THOROUGHLY ENJOYING THEIR GARDEN PARTY.

BECAUSE LAKSHMI WAS THE ASHRA'S FIRST COUSIN SHE RECEIVED THE MAHARSHI



ONE DAY, POLKA DOTTED A PHOTOGRAPHER WAS VERY KEEN TO TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH, BUT LAKSHMI WAS RESTLESS.



THE MOMENT SHE HEARD THESE CALMING WORDS, LAKSHMI STOOD STILL AT ONCE AND CLOSED HER EYES AS IF SHE WERE MEDITATING.



IT WAS NOT FOR ANIMALS ALONE THAT THE MAHARSHI FELT DEEP AFFECTION, BUT FOR ALL LIVING THINGS. ONE DAY, SOME MEN WERE TRYING STONES TO BEAT DOWN FRUIT FROM A NAYAGU TREE.



JUST THEN THE MAHARSHI CAME THERE AND HIS GENTLY CALM GAVE WAY TO A RARE FURY.

THIS TREE GIVES US ITS FRUIT. IS IT TO BE STONED IN RETURN? ARE NOT TREES AND LEAVES ALSO LIVING THINGS?



SHOULD WE HURT THEM SO UNTHINKINGLY? WE PLUCK FLOWERS AND LEAVES FOR DECORATION. DON'T THEY LOOK BETTER, AND LIVE LONGER ON THE PLANT ITSELF?



ANOTHER HABIT THE MAHARSHI FINALLY DISCOURAGED WAS WASTE. EVERY DAY ALL THE WASTE WAS CAREFULLY LAD AWAY FOR FUTURE USE. ONE DAY

HE WAS TOSSING SOME PETALS TRIED SOME BEING THROWN AWAY - LET US PETALS USE THEM, PUT THEM IN BUT... BUT... TODAY'S BANJAN



HOWEVER, THE PETALS WERE USED IN THE BANJAN. LATER WHEN IT WAS SERVED

THEY SEEM TO BE ENJOYING IT VERY MUCH!

DO YOU THINK THERE IS MORE FOR A SECOND HELPING?



THE MAHARISHI HELPED IN CHOPPING VEGETABLES AND IN GRINDING TASTY CURRIES. HE NEVER LET THE PREVIOUS DAY'S FOOD GO WASTE.

THAT SAMBAR IS
YESTERDAY'S I'LL GIVE
IT TO THE BEGGARS

WHY SHOULD ONLY BEGGARS
EAT LEFT-OVER? ARE THEY
ANY DIFFERENT FROM US?

AND THE MAHARISHI HEATED THE SAMBAR HIMSELF. IN THE MEAN TIME, HE GENTLY CORRECTED THE STRICT ORTHODOX BELIEFS OF SOME OF HIS DEVOTEES AND HIS PRESENCE IN THE KITCHEN MADE COOKING NOT A Tiresome CHORE, BUT A PLEASURE!

HE ALSO DISCOURAGED PEOPLE FROM
ATTRIBUTING MIRACLES TO HIM.

SHASHWAN, IS IT TRUE THAT YOU
CURED A LAMB MAN? MANY
MIRACLES HAVE BEEN
ASCRIBED TO YOUR
GRACE

MY GRACE?
NOT MINE, BUT
ARUNACHALA'S.

PEOPLE FROM ALL PARTS OF INDIA AND
ABROAD CAME TO THE MAHARISHI

HOW CAN
ATTAIN THE
TRUTH?

ASK YOURSELF THE
QUESTION: 'WHO AM I?'
THE TRUTH LIES WITHIN
YOU. DON'T SEEK IT
OUTSIDE. IT IS ALWAYS
THERE IN YOU.

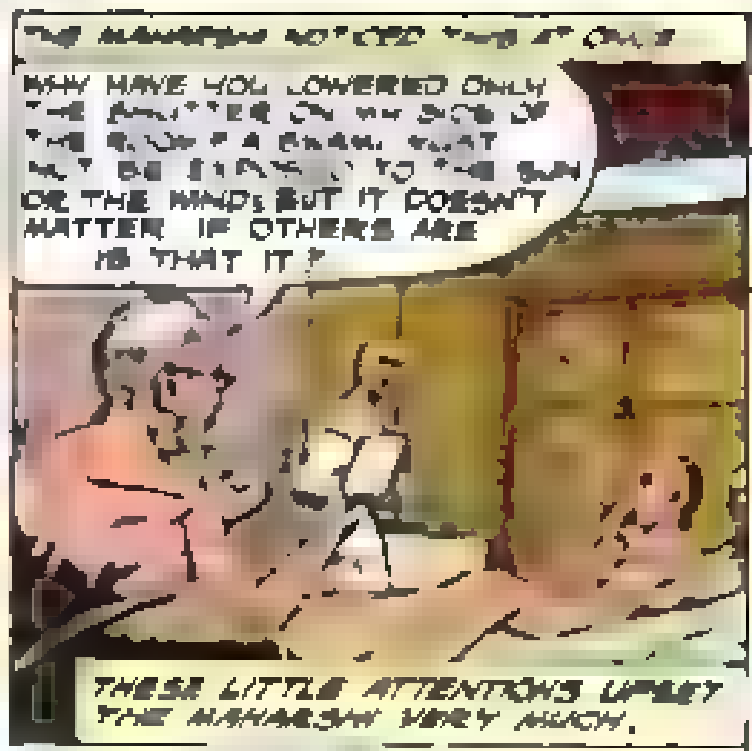
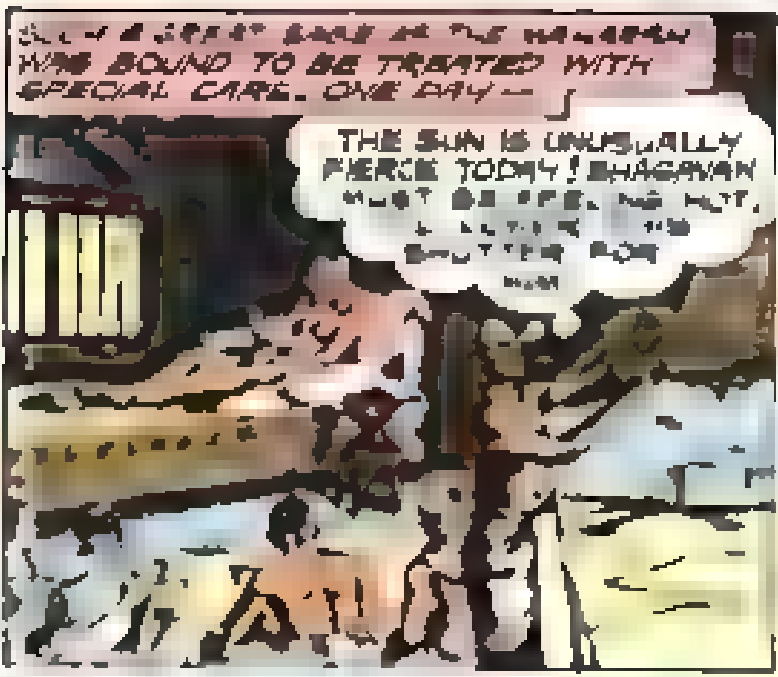
ALL WERE ALIKE TO SHASHWAN, SCHOOL OR SUPERIOR, OLD MAN OR CHILD

SHASHWAN
CAN YOU EXPLAIN
THIS VERSE
TO ME?

YES,
WHAT DOES
IT SAY? LET
ME SEE.

SHASHWAN,
SEE MY BOOK
ABOUT LITTLE
KITTIES SHE
LOST HER
SHEEP.

DID SHE? WHAT NICE PICTURES!
BUT IT IS TORN I'LL HAVE IT
REPAIRED AND GIVE IT BACK
TO YOU TOMORROW.



ONE DAY —

BHAGAVAN, YOU HAVE BEEN RUBBING YOUR LEFT ELBOW THESE PAST FEW DAYS. HAVE YOU HURT YOURSELF?

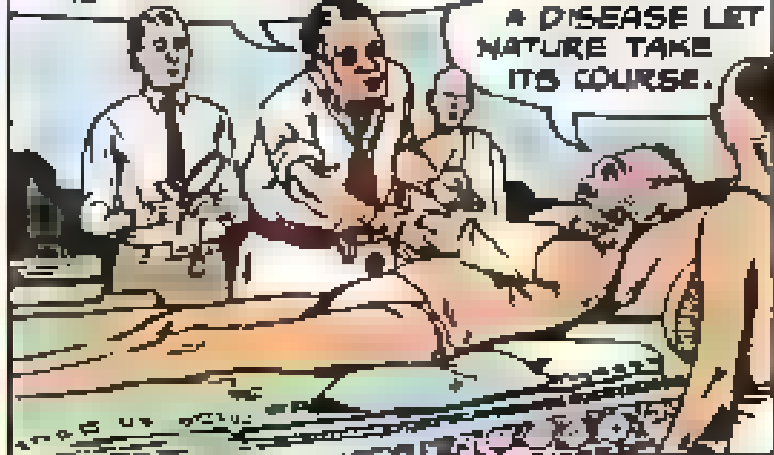
THERE SEEMS TO BE A SMALL GROWTH HERE.



THE GROWTH BEGAN TO INCREASE IN SIZE. THEN TO EVERYONE'S SHOCK, IT WAS DIAGNOSED AS CANCER.

BHAGAVAN, WE WILL HAVE TO REMOVE THE GROWTH SURGICALLY. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO CURB THIS DISEASE.

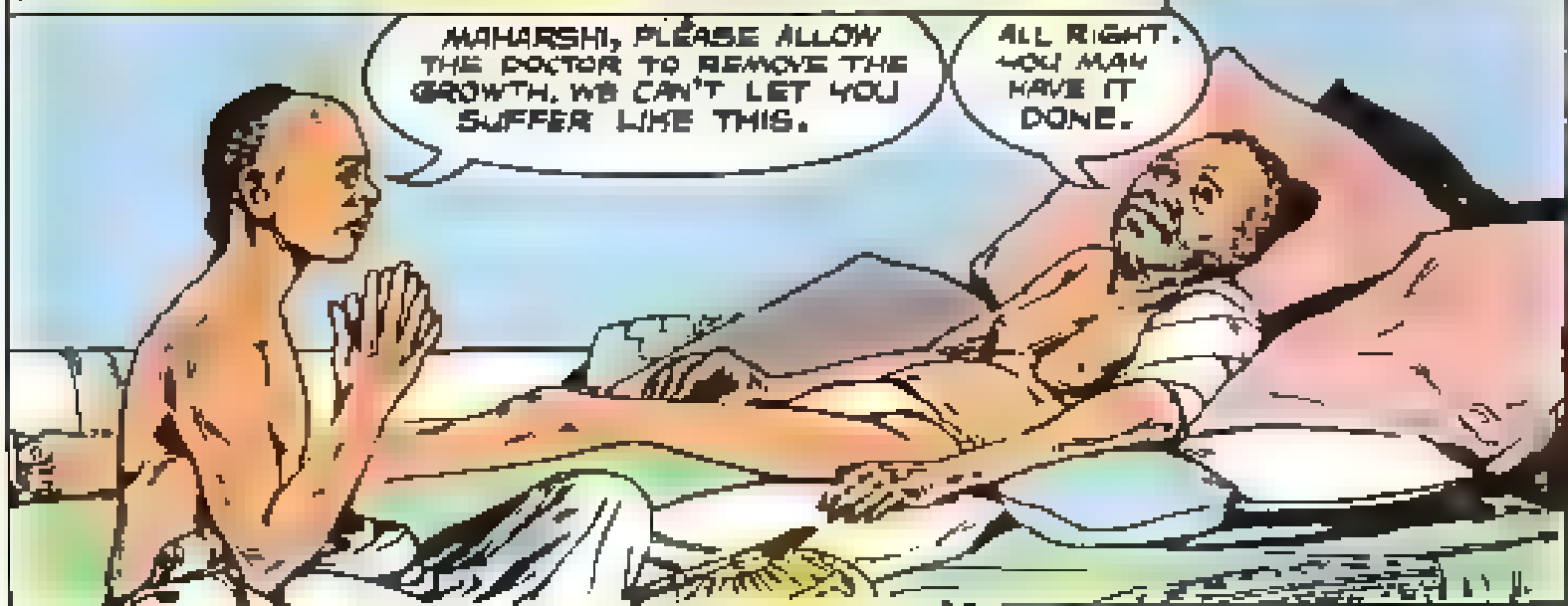
THE BODY ITSELF IS A DISEASE LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.



BUT THE DISEASE BEGAN TO SPREAD RAPIDLY. FINALLY —

MAHARSHI, PLEASE ALLOW THE DOCTOR TO REMOVE THE GROWTH. WE CAN'T LET YOU SUFFER LIKE THIS.

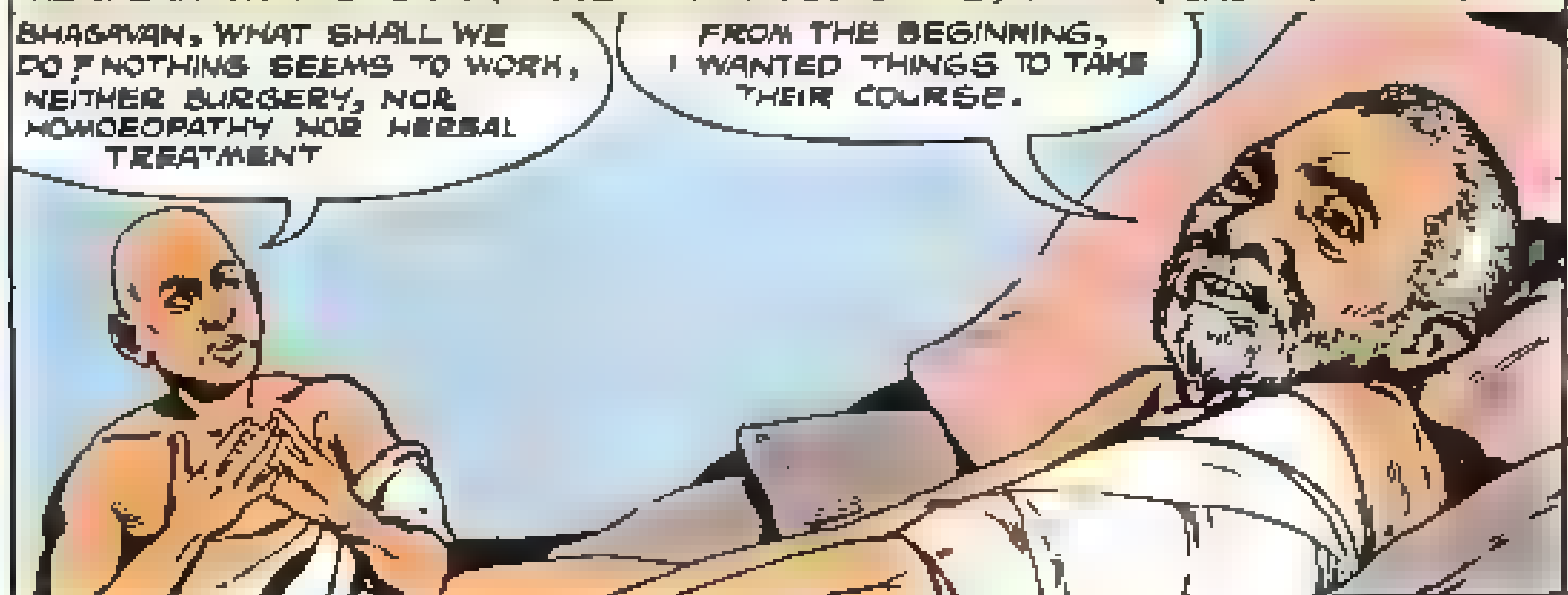
ALL RIGHT. YOU MAY HAVE IT DONE.



THE OPERATION WAS PERFORMED, BUT AFTER SOME TIME, ANOTHER GROWTH APPEARED.

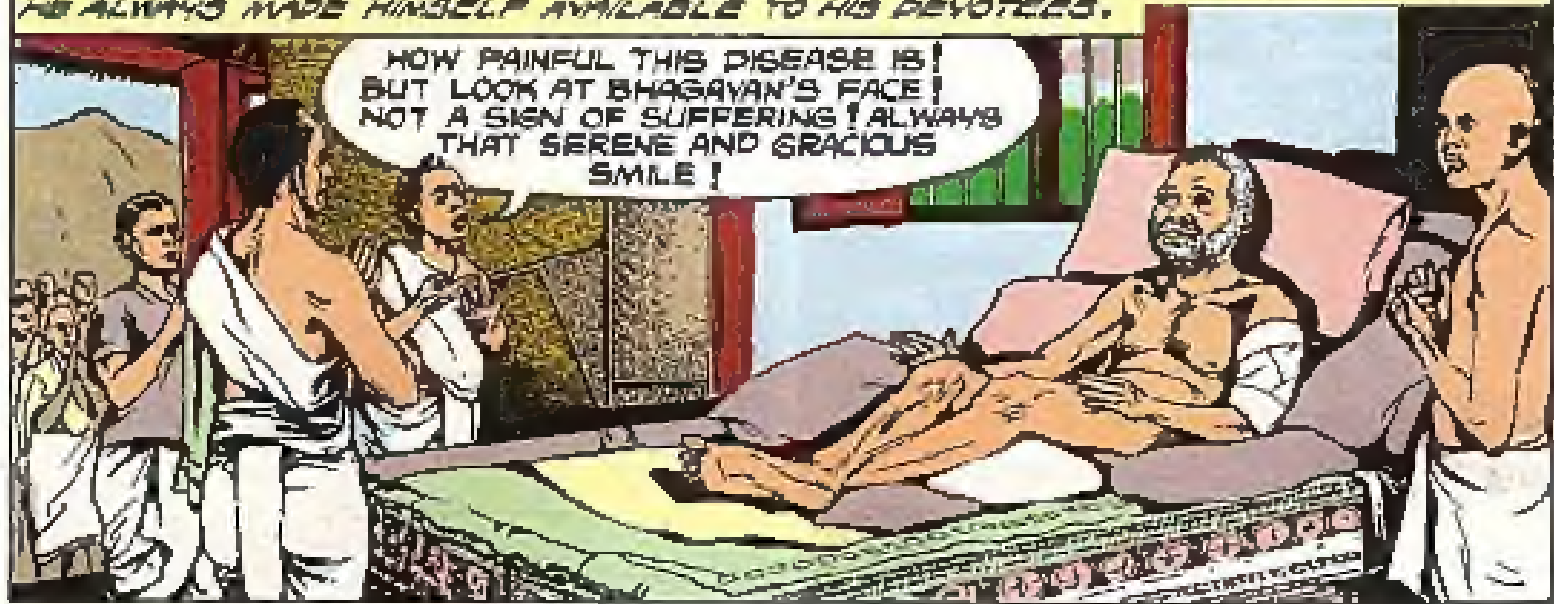
BHAGAVAN, WHAT SHALL WE DO? NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK, NEITHER SURGERY, NOR HOMOEOPATHY NOR HERBAL TREATMENT

FROM THE BEGINNING, I WANTED THINGS TO TAKE THEIR COURSE.



TO PLEASE HIS DEVOTEES, THE MAHARSHI UNDERWENT FURTHER OPERATIONS. THERE WAS NO IMPROVEMENT IN HIS CONDITION, BUT HOWEVER WEAK HE FELT, HE ALWAYS MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO HIS DEVOTEES.

HOW PAINFUL THIS DISEASE IS!
BUT LOOK AT BHAGAVAN'S FACE!
NOT A SIGN OF SUFFERING! ALWAYS
THAT SERENE AND GRACIOUS
SMILE!



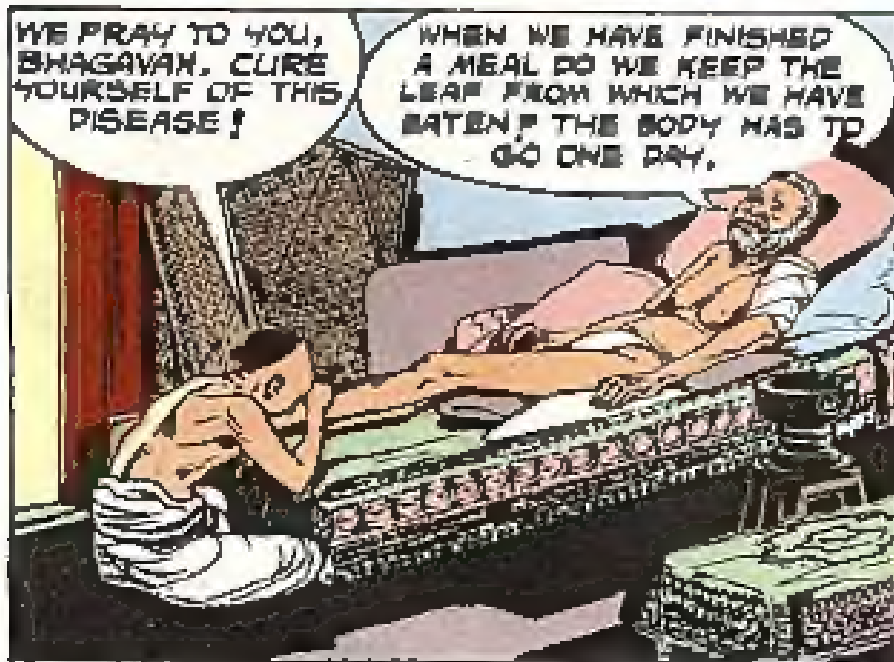
BHAGAVAN,
ENOUGH! THESE
OPERATIONS HAVE
LEFT YOU SO
WEAK!

MY DEVOTEES
DO IT WITH LOVE.
I MUST NOT
DISAPPOINT
THEM.

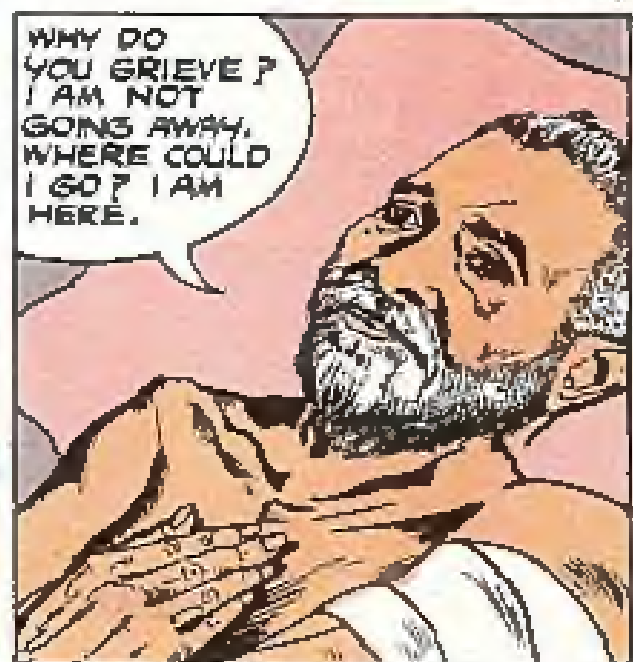


WE PRAY TO YOU,
BHAGAVAN, CURE
YOURSELF OF THIS
DISEASE!

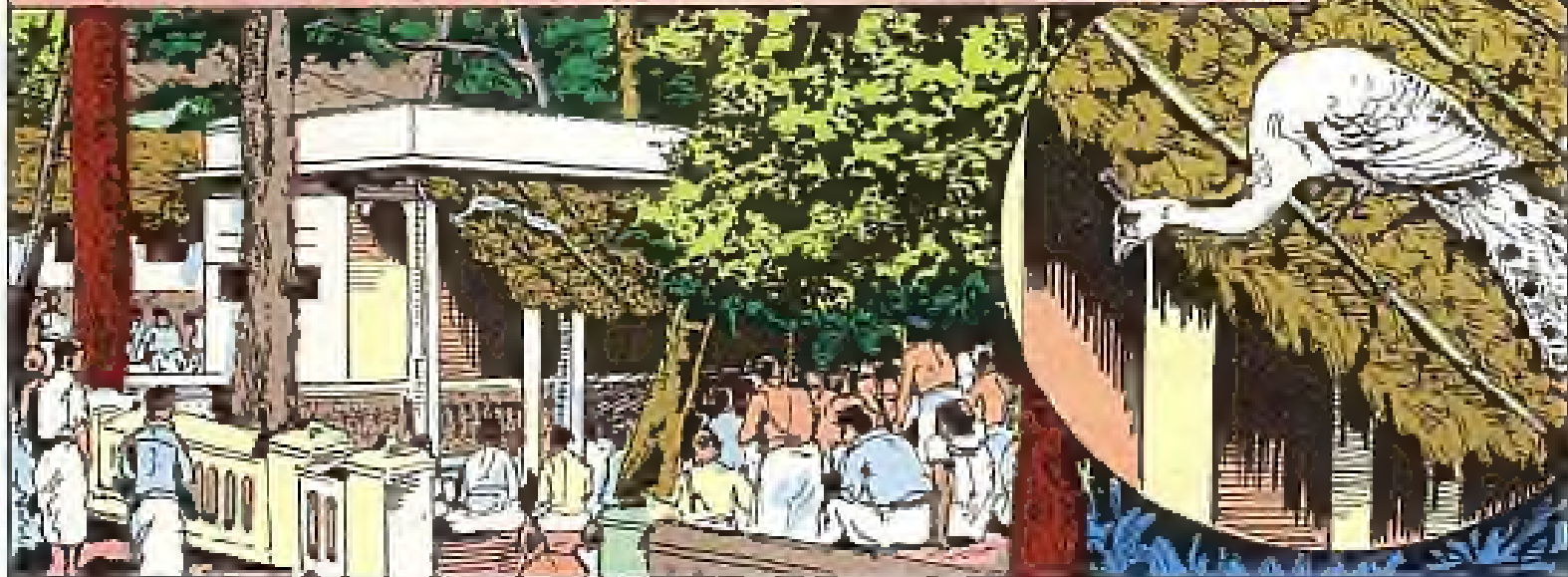
WHEN WE HAVE FINISHED
A MEAL DO WE KEEP THE
LEAF FROM WHICH WE HAVE
EATEN? THE BODY HAS TO
GO ONE DAY.



WHY DO
YOU GRIEVE?
I AM NOT
GOING AWAY,
WHERE COULD
I GO? I AM
HERE.



IT WAS THE EVENING OF APRIL 14, 1950... ON THE ROOF OF THE SMALL ROOM WHERE THE MAHARSHI LAY, HIS PET PEACOCK WAS WAILING.



HUNDREDS OF GRIEVING DEVOTEES HAD FLOCKED TO TIRUVANMALAI. SOME OF THEM BEGAN TO SING THE MAHARSHI'S HYMN. IT WAS TAKEN UP BY EVERYONE TILL IT BECAME A LOUD, RINGING CHANT OF DEVOTION.



INSIDE THE ROOM, THE MAHARSHI OPENED HIS EYES A LITTLE. THE EYES SEEMED TO FLASH BRIEFLY AND TEARS OF ECSTASY ROLLED OUT.



OUTSIDE, A FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER LOOKED UP CASUALLY AT THE DARKENING SKY. THEN HE POINTED EXCITEDLY UPWARDS.

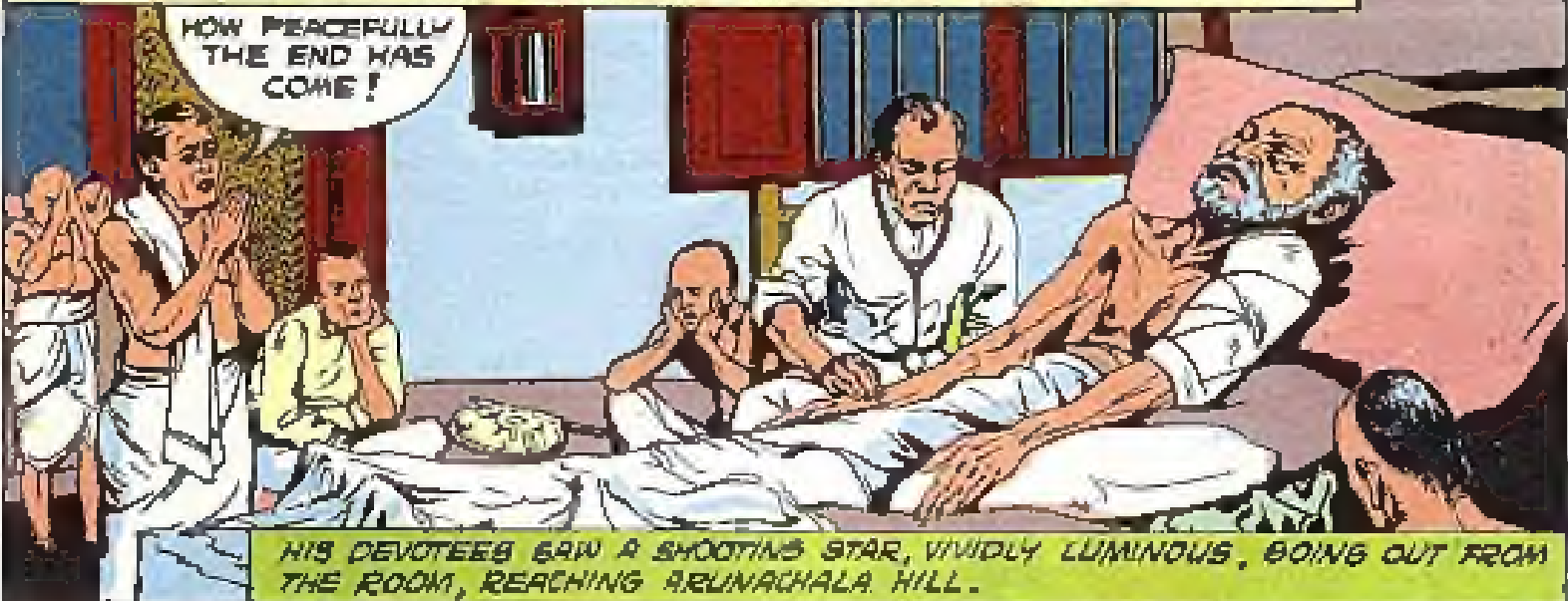
DO YOU SEE THAT? A METEOR CUTTING A PATH ACROSS THE SKY BEHIND ARUNACHALA HILL?

IT IS EXACTLY 6:47 BY MY WATCH.



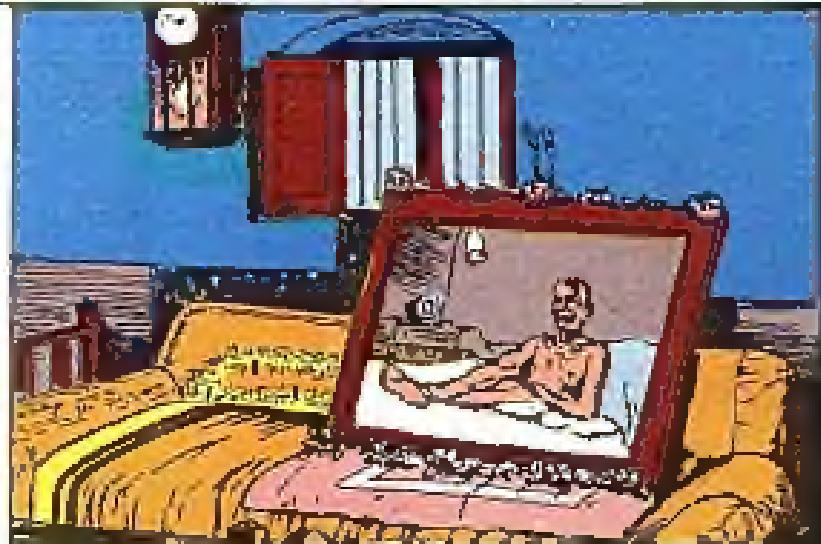
INSIDE, PRECISELY AT THAT MOMENT, THE MAHARSHI'S BREATHING STOPPED.

HOW PEACEFULLY THE END HAS COME!



HIS DEVOTEES SAW A SHOOTING STAR, VIVIDLY LUMINOUS, GOING OUT FROM THE ROOM, REACHING ARUNACHALA HILL.

THE MAHARSHI IS GONE. YET HE IS HERE.



ON THE COUCH WHERE HE HAD SAT FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS, HIS LIFE-LIKE PORTRAIT HAS BEEN PLACED. HERE HIS DEVOTEES STILL FEEL HIS PRESENCE, AS COMFORTING AND PEACE-GIVING AS BEFORE.



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Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharshi was born Venkataraman Iyer in 1897 in the South Indian village of Tiruchuzhi. When he was young, he was sent to Madurai to study. He became spiritually awakened at the age of 16, after which he came to Tiruvannamalai where the sacred Arunachala Hill is located.

Ramana Maharshi was a saint, mystic and gyani. At Tiruvannamalai, thousands came to him from across the world, seeking spiritual guidance and solace. Even today, seekers of truth find a haven at Sri Ramanaashramam, the ashram where he had lived for nearly three decades.

This Amar Chitra Katha follows the journey of young Venkataraman who learned to look deep within himself for all the answers and went on to become the renowned Bhagwan Sri Ramana Maharshi.

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